

# Third Sunday of Advent



Messiah Lutheran Church  
December 12, 2021

(440) 331-2405  
[MessiahChurchFairview.org](http://MessiahChurchFairview.org)

## **To our Guests: Welcome!**

### **Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days**

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coronavirus infection continues to threaten people who have not been vaccinated and some who are fully vaccinated. In our determined care for each other, please follow these rules:

- If you arrived with a cough, fever, sniffles or other symptoms of a respiratory infection, please say a quiet prayer, excuse yourself, and go home.
- All services are “mask-optional” for people who have been vaccinated. Go without one if you wish. Wear one if you wish.
- If you haven’t been vaccinated, please be sure to wear a mask for your own safety and as way of caring for the people around you.
- Singing is permitted at all services, though we urge you to sing quietly.
- Continue to observe social distancing rules.
- Continue for the time being to sit only in marked pews. Use your judgment on how close you wish to be to people at the other end. Listen kindly to their concerns if they have any.
- Continue to share the Peace with a nod, a bow or a wave of the hand. No handshakes or hugs yet.
- At communion we will continue to use the pouring chalice and individual cups. The pastors will mask when they consecrate the elements and wear a glove to distribute the host.

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 8:30 & 11 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“Suo Gan,” arr. Thomas Quigley

## Entrance

*Stand as the cross enters from the side door*

Confession and Forgiveness

*Stand as you are able*

P In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!” Brothers and sisters, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P Gracious God,

**C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

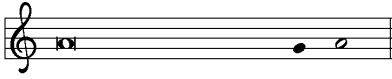
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn,” #242

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



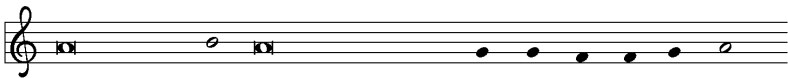
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Advent Candle Lighting

*Today's word: "Rejoice"*

P We thank you, Gracious God, for wondrous words of Advent promise that refresh our days with hope in you. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our hearts to the joy of all that you accomplished for us when Christ first came, and empower us to wait with steadfast patience for the greater joy of his coming again. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C Amen.**

*Singing—*

O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer,  
 Our spirits by your advent here;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to you, O Israel

## Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*You may be seated*

# The Word of God

## First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

## C Thanks be to God.

Isaiah

12:2-6

6

*Refrain sung by Cantor/Choir; Refrain sung by all*

*Refrain*

**G** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

*Verses sung by Cantor/Choir; Refrain sung by all*

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted.” **Refrain**

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **Refrain**

## Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

### **C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation

“Prepare the Royal Highway,” #264 stanza 1

Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For he fulfills God's word!

## Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

*At the announcement of the Gospel:*

### **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*You may be seated*

**Sermon**

Pastor Bridger

*Stand as you are able*

**Song of the Day**

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper,”



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

**Shining with Hope: An Offering of Commitments**



## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

A Stir up your power, O Lord. . .

C . . . and fill us with joy in your Word.

## Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

*Greet those around you with these or similar words*

*You may be seated*

**Offering** “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion,” Kenneth Kosche (8:30)

*Rejoice, rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!*

*See, your king, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, salvation.*

*Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.*

“Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence,” arr. Anna Laura Page (11)

A Let us pray. God of abundance,

C **You have blessed us with these gifts. Grant us patience and hope as we commit them to your service for the care and redemption of all that you have made; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Lord’s Supper

### Great Thanksgiving



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord. . .now and forever. **Amen.**

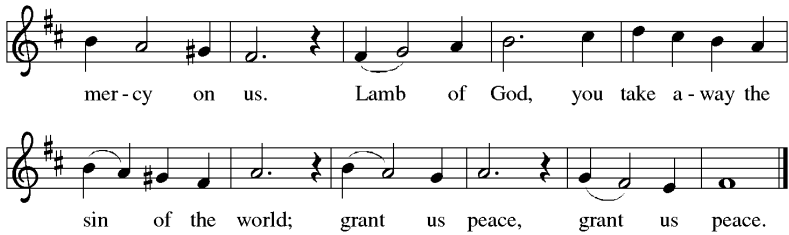
**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*You may be seated*

### Communion

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



## Communion Hymn

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You,” #241

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

**C Amen.**

## Post Communion Prayer

**A** We thank you, gracious Father, for this foretaste of the age to come when hunger is no more, and every heart is filled with joy. Send us now in the strength of this promise to spend our days as signs of hope for all creation, and as agents of your life-giving love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing



**P** Almighty God, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever.

**A - men**

## Sending Song

“Hark, the Glad Sound!” #239

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

“Hark, the Glad Sound!” John Leavitt

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## Serving Today

*Preaching Minister* – Pastor Bridger

*Presiding Minister* – Pastor Burce

*Assisting Ministers* – Chris Neumann (8:30); Christopher Peters (11)

*Acolytes* – Gavin Jennings (8:30); Leroy Russ (11)

*Cantor* – John Hayduk (11)

*Organist* – Connie Triplett

*Messiah Choir (8:30)* – Directed by Connie Triplett

*Joy Ringers (11)* – Directed by Ruth King

*Deacons* – Trish Kvasnicka (8:30); Michael Eckert (11)

*Altar Guild* – Allison Paton, Diane Paton

## In our Prayers

- The Church's witness to the hope and promise of Christ in these Advent days
- Those suffering from Covid and the reality of the virus
- The Ill: Andrew Boraggina, Breanna Johnson, Betty Kocob, JoAnn Kundtz, John Kurtz, Betty Preuss
- For family and friends of Ruth Blogna, aunt of Chip DiFiore, who passed away this week
- For the family and friends of Bob Hahn, uncle of Erin Bruneau, who passed away this week

## This Week's Commemorations

*Dec. 13*—LUCY, d. 304, a young Sicilian Christian, martyred in the persecutions of Diocletian, whose memory lives on in the St. Lucia celebrations of Scandinavia.

*Dec. 14*—JOHN OF THE CROSS, d. 1591, a monastic reformer and spiritual writer.

## God's Word for Next Week

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b – 55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

*We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.*