



# St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

*Third Sunday of Advent*

## GATHERING

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

(Please stand)

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

*P The past two Sundays we lit the candle hope and the candle of Peace.*

**C Today we like the pink candle of Joy, for Christ is near.**

*P Though the broken world may bring us to lament and repentance, our sorrow will turn to joy.*

**C No one can take away the joy Christ completes in us.**

*P We light this candle with the joy of those who have heard and experienced the Word made flesh even as we wait for Christ to come again.*

**C Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

**Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

### **Prayer of the Day**

*P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:*

*P: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R: Thanks be to you, O Lord, for the word you put upon our hearts,

C: **Praise be to you, O God, for the spirit which brings it to life in us.**

**Second Reading: Luke 1:46b-54 (congregation respond w/bold print)**

*A song of praise celebrating God's great mercy*

<sup>46b</sup>My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;**

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;**

**<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,**

and sent the rich away empty.

**<sup>54</sup>He has helped his people in remembrance of his mercy.**

R: Thanks be to you, O Lord, for the word you put upon our hearts,

C: **Praise be to you, O God, for the spirit which brings it to life in us.**

(please stand)

**Special Music**

**Rejoice and Be Merry**

**Senior Choir**

## **Gospel Acclamation (purple) ) #174 Celtic Alleluia**

*Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.*

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

*From a prison cell, John the Baptist wonders whether Jesus is the really one sent by God to save us. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already.*

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*P: The Gospel of the Lord*

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

(Please be seated)

### **Children's Message**

**Message: In Jesus the ONE ? Pastor John Omans**

**Message Song (cranberry) #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

(Please stand)

**Apostles' Creed (cranberry) pg. 105**

(Please kneel)

### **Prayers of the People**

*P: Lord, in your mercy*

**Prayer Response: (cranberry) #178 Hear Our Prayer**

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all people,  
hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

### **The Peace**

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

**C And also with you.**

*P We share Christ's peace with each other (virtual high-five, wave, or virtual hug)*

(please be seated)

## THANKSGIVING

### Offering invitation (spoken by Pastor)

*(Offering may be placed in offering plates near exits)*

### Stewardship Minute

Today calls us to use our voices to be good stewards of Joy, communicating through our singing and speaking the hope that Jesus brings to this world. There is much in our daily news that can lead us to despair. Our Bible lessons today point us in a different direction. In the arrival of Jesus into our world, and into our lives, God is still doing a new thing – again and again! In Jesus, we are pointed to a new way of living (in love and in peace) and a more hopeful horizon. And you, who have been united with him in baptism, are part of the plan. Jesus is God’s entry into this broken world. And in that, there is much reason to rejoice!

### Offering prayer

*P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:*

*P: Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth; yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.*

*Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame; ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.*

*Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done; yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.*

**C Amen**

### The 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 too give our thanks and praise.**

*P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**Sanctus**

***Holy, Holy, Holy***

**Holy, holy, holy, tender, gentle God Heaven and earth are full of you.**

**Hosanna, hosanna in the high and in the low ones.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name**

### Words of Institution

*P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:*

**Lord’s Prayer (cranberry) pg. 112** *(Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,)*

## Communion

(All baptized Christians are invited to come to the Lord's Table. Children who haven't had instruction are invited to come for a blessing. They're asked to fold their hands. Children who are receiving communion please extend your hands. Grape juice is available -- please say "Grape juice" to the server.) Gluten Free Wafers are available upon request.

## Invitation to Communion

*P* Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

## Hymns During Communion *(These are all favorite hymns that were listed in survey)*

(cranberry) #240 **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

(cranberry) #265 **The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

(cranberry) #487 **What Feast of Love**

(cranberry) #488 **Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

## Prayer after Communion

*P* *Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.*

**C Amen.**

## Dismissal of Homebound Communion

*P* *Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**C Amen**

(Please stand ) **SENDING**

## Blessing

*P:* *God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn (Cranberry) #292 **Love Has Come**

## Dismissal

*P:* *Go in peace. Christ is near.*

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Pastor:** John Omans

**Organist:** Al Tonn

**Guitarist:** Mike Harvey

**Acolyte:** Carson Hunter

**Council Person:** Rhonda Behsmann

**Reader:** Gyles Randall

**Ushers:** Mary Conway, Melvina Conrath

**Comm. Prep:** Gyles & Carol Randall

**Videographer:** Merrill Schultz

**Facebook Live:** Curt Yess

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.**