



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Welcome to Worship! Words in **bold** are said together.

Welcome – We will be sharing in Holy Communion online today. You are invited to gather what is available in your home – as Christ did at the celebration of Passover – bread in some form, and fruit juice or wine. We will eat and drink together after the Eucharist prayer.

Confession and Absolution

L: Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, whose coming is soon, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **C: Amen.**

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

Greeting

L: 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.**

Kyrie (sung from setting 4)

Advent Hymn – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240 (v. 3)

Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light soften darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Advent Candle Lighting

Gathering Hymn – He Came Down #253

1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

Verse 2: light

Verse 3: peace

Verse 4: joy

Prayer of the Day

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, amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

L: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

L: then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

C: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

L: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

C: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message and Sermon

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

Hymn of the Day – Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding #246

1. Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"
2. Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
3. See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;
4. So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.
5. Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!

Apostle's Creed

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.

Prayers of God's People

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the easy instructions



Offering Hymn – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! #288 (v. 3)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Offering Prayer

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Communion

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

* Eat and drink together at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,
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.

Announcements

- Wednesday Advent Worship at 7pm on Zoom! click the link, or call in at 253-215-8782 and type in the Meeting ID: 954 4649 8888 and Passcode: 177669, or click this link: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/95446498888?pwd=QmQ2VDNhSElzVUFZY1ZzWDFITStpZz09>
- The Rees family has again generously donated a steer to offset the church's fuel bill. Reserve a 20 lb. share of grade A beef for \$200 by emailing office@lordoflifeak.com
- We are preparing our Christmas Eve Worship. Please send pictures of your creche (manger scene!), and 30-second candle videos for "Silent Night" to the church office by this Thursday (Dec 17)!

Blessing and Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Thanks to...

Pianist, Carol Hughes
Reader, Liz Sandbo
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Video, Jason Kempthorne

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