



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK  
(907) 488-6720 [www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)

*Assistant Minister = Blue*

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

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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

**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.**

### *Confession and Forgiveness*

*Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Congregation: Amen.***

*L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and of one another. (silence for reflection)*

*L: Long-expected God, **C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.***

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

*L: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **C: Amen.***

### *Lighting the Third Advent Candle*

*L: We light three candles and know the time of holy birth draws near, whether we are ready or not. We welcome you, Emmanuel, God with us, and pray for your loving presence to stay with us. **C: Amen.***

### *Gathering Hymn – Open the Eyes of My Heart*

*Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You (2x)*

*Verse: To see You high and lifted up shinin' in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy.*

*Repeat Refrain (2x) and Verse (2x)*

*Ending: Holy, holy, holy... holy, holy, holy... holy, holy, holy, I want to see you. (repeat)*

*Prayer of the Day* – **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. Amen.**

*Scripture Readings*

Isaiah 35:1-10

p. 578

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 shouting. 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 shall be opened; <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.

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

Psalms 146:5-10

p. 507

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. <sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

James 5:7-10

p. 982

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

*Gospel Acclamation (sung) p. 102, setting 1*

\*Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

The holy Gospel according to *Matthew*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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, those with a skin disease 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.

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

*Sermon*

David Ingram

*Song of the Day – Mary's Boy Child*

Long time 'go in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible say,  
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day.

**Refrain:** Hark! Now hear the angels sing, a new king born today.  
And all may live forever more, because of Christmas Day.

Now Joseph and his wife Mary went to Bethlehem that night.  
And found no place to lay their heads, Not a single room was in sight. *Refrain.*

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, they saw a bright, new, shining star.  
And from the East there came three men Bearing gifts from afar. *Refrain x2*

*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.**

*Sharing the Peace – L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.*

## *Offering*

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at [www.lordoflifeak.com/giving](http://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 instructions. Giving is secure.



## *Offering Song – Come On, Ring Those Bells*

1. Ev'rybody likes to take a holiday, ev'rybody likes to take a rest.  
Spending time together with the family, sharing lots of love and happiness.

*Refrain:* Come on, ring those bells! Light the Christmas tree!

Jesus is the King, born for you and me.

Come on, ring those bells! Ev'rybody say, Jesus we remember this your birthday.

2. Celebrations come because of something good, celebrations we love to recall.  
Mary had a baby boy in Bethlehem, greatest celebration of them all. *Refrain x2*

## *Offering Prayer*

**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving p. 107*

*Holy, Holy, Holy p. 108*

*Christ's Words of Institution and Communion*

*Invitation to Communion*

*L: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.*

*Post Communion Prayer*

*L: God, our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. C: Amen.*

## *Announcements*

- Want to donate a poinsettia? Give \$20 and note 'poinsettias'
- Only 1 Beef share left!
- Wednesday is our last Advent Soup Supper and Holden Eve worship
- Today – deadline for Adopt a Family gift drop-off
- Coming up: 12-21 children's pageant; Christmas Eve 5pm candlelight service; Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED; 12-28 Carol Service

## *Sending Song – Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Refrain:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

- behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain.*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*
  3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

### *Blessing*

*L: May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting,  
peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. C: Amen.*

### *Dismissal*

*L: Go in peace. Keep awake. C: Thanks be to God.*

### ***Special Thanks to...***

Assistant Minister,  
PowerPoint, Eileen D.  
Ushers/ Acolyte,  
Communion Prep,  
Greeters,

Reader, Eileen Dubowski  
Video,  
Sunday School, Eileen Dubowski  
Fellowship,

### ***Birthdays & Anniversaries...***

12-14 Faith Neske