

# ADVENT 3

**December 15, 2024**



*Ring of Bell*

PRELUDE 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime w/Cradle Carol

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hymn music begins and candles are lit on the advent wreath.

◆ *please stand*

HYMN - ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - PRAYER

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn v. 3 No. 242*

**3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

L: Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**ALL: Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN      *He Came Down*      No. 253

**1 He came down that we may have LOVE;**  
*(sing 2 more times)*  
**hallelujah forevermore.**

**2 He came down that we may have LIGHT;**  
*(sing 2 more times)*  
**hallelujah forevermore.**

**3 He came down that we may have PEACE;**  
*(sing 2 more times)*  
**hallelujah forevermore.**

**4 He came down that we may have JOY;**  
*(sing 2 more times)*  
**hallelujah forevermore.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God.  
**C: 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. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings*

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

*Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst*

<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. *CONT'D*

<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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

PSALM: ISAIAH 12:2-6 We read responsively

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel;

**For the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

*Rejoice, the Lord is near*

<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 be anxious 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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO : LUKE 3:7-18

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

*Baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire*

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be 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 strap 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.

P: THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

**C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

*Please be seated*

CHILDREN'S WORD

MESSAGE *Pastor D.J.*

◆ *please stand*

HYMN Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers v.1,2,4 No. 244

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluia clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord to see, the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

APOSTLES 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 INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

OFFERING—OFFERTORY--GLOBE OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church.*

◆ *please stand*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

**C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*God feeds us with tender mercy; come to the table.*

*Please be seated*

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN(S)...

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 279

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

*use hymnal*

TABLE BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.

**We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

◆ *please stand*

HYMN

*All Earth Is Hopeful*

No. 266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she conceived him, "God with us," our brother whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live; in our world he is present, in neighbors we see, our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Noël Nouvelet*

## **PARTICIPANTS**

PRESIDER—Pastor D.J. Chatelaine  
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Harris Haugen  
ACOLYTE—Quinnly Hanson  
KEYBOARD/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst  
COMMUNION SET-UP—Heidi Haugen  
GREETERS—Allen & Lenice Hoversten  
COMMUNION SERVERS—Harris & Heidi Haugen,  
Erica Aronson  
COFFEE SERVERS—Harris & Heidi Haugen  
TECH TEAM—Steve Johnson, Heidi Haugen,  
Holly Aldorfer, Barb Groth

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*Jennifer Lerfald, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt,  
Jim Fountaine, Dick Overby, Dax Eggert; & the family of  
Nordis Luebke.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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OL/SKU #1028796 *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*  
OL/SKU#09936 *Awake Awake & Greet the New Morn*  
OL/SKU #00114 *He Came Down*  
OL/SKU #214678 *I Wonder as I Wonder*  
OL/SKU #98260 *What Feast of Love*  
OL/SKU #92276 *All Earth Is Hopeful*

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## **CALENDAR**

Sun 12/15	9 WORSHIP - ADVENT 3 10 Sunday School 10 Coffee 10:15 Adult Forum
Wed 12/18	6 Advent Contemplative Worship & Cookies. 7 COUNCIL Mtg
Thu 12/19	1 LOVE DAY 5:30 SONS OF NORWAY 7 AA
Sat 12-21	11 NORDIS LUEBKE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Sun 12/22	9 WORSHIP - ADVENT 4 - with Noisy Offering for Organ Fund- bring change! Also, LIVE NATIVITY at worship – S/S to arrive at 8:45 for costuming. 10 Coffee 10:15 Adult Forum
Tue 12/24	4 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & MORE . . .**

### **CHRISTMAS PLANTS**

~~If you would like a plant in Church for Christmas in  
**Honor/Memory** of a loved one, please purchase your  
own and deliver to the church after 12-16. Identify your  
plant with a slip of paper tucked in. Your plant would like  
to go home with you on Christmas Eve.

~~A Donor Page will be displayed. To be included,  
please fill out a SLIP – leave in offering plate, bring to  
church office, or send info by e-mail to:

[firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com) **Slip Deadline- Dec 16.**

### **CHRISTMAS ORGAN FUND GIFT**

~~Instead of a plant, if you would like to donate to  
the ORGAN REPAIR FUND for Christmas in **Honor or  
Memory** of a loved one, please complete this slip,  
**include your check or cash**, and place slip and  
payment in envelope (provided). Make your check  
payable to First Ev. Lutheran Church and write "Organ  
Fund" in the memo line. Leave in the offering plate  
or bring to the church office. A Donor Page will be  
created for display. **NEW Deadline - December 23.**

FAMILY SNOW TUBING--Saturday, Jan. 18th, 6-8 pm,  
at Steeplechase-Mazeppa. Call or e-mail Bryana Lothert  
at: 507-210-0814 or [flcyouth45@gmail.com](mailto:flcyouth45@gmail.com)