

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and handicap friendly Congregation

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 15, 2024
10:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.
If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains
a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Archer

Welcome and Announcements

We rise in body or spirit.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The third candle calls us to joy.
When confusion claims us,
when we feel unable to do anything right,
God invites us to be faithful.

(Joy candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find JOY these days?

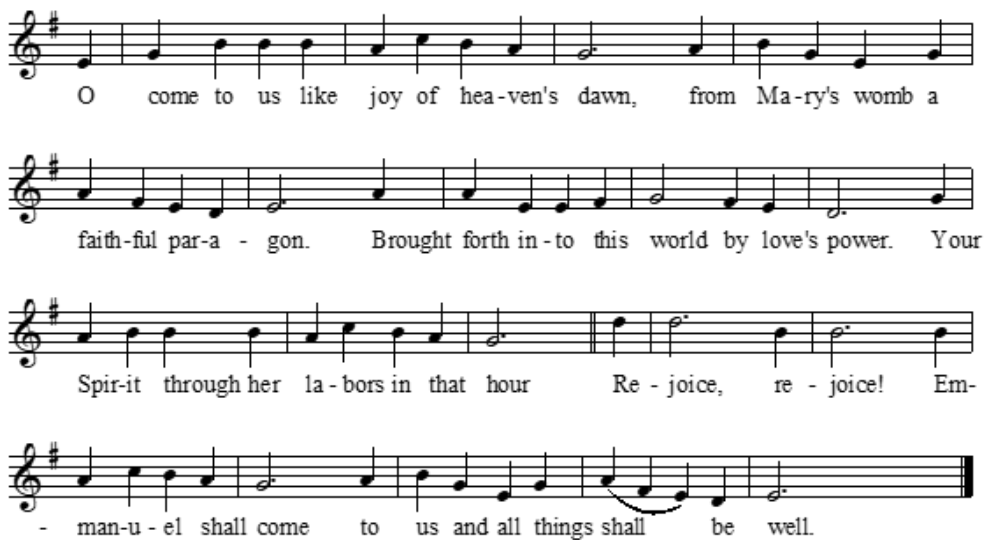
Let us pray.

O holy child of Bethlehem, we open our hearts to you.

And we seek to offer hospitality and joy to others in need in this holy season.

Amen

Song of JOY



O come to us like joy of hea-ven's dawn, from Ma-ry's womb a
faith-ful par-a - gon. Brought forth in -to this world by love's power. Your
Spir-it through her la - bors in that hour Re - joice, re - joice! Em-
- man-u - el shall come to us and all things shall be well.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray.

O God of timeless love,

we gather in this place to feel your gentle touch and your powerful peace.

This week has been too full or too empty,

we are here for what you alone can provide.

Let our voices unite in song and praise.

Let our senses come alive to the new birth you offer to each one of us.

May the fruits of this time be a gift to you and to all that gather this day in this place.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

1st Reading – Zephaniah 3:14-20

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

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.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

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 as on a day of festival.”

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

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.

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!

2nd Reading – Philippians 4:4-7

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 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!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from Luke, the 3rd chapter.
Open our hearts, Lord.

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?

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. 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?"

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Good News!

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Shari Duminy

We rise in body or spirit.



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures -
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Advent Affirmation

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.
**The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence,
 who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
 The one who is beyond bluster and flurry,
 and who does not push for attention.**

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation,
**who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed,
 who lived thirty years without headlines or haste,
 who frequently took time alone with his patient Father,
 who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant,
 who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers,
 whose silence overpowered their words,
 who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes,
sometimes arriving with obvious power,
sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God
who patiently waits for us,
and who longs for us to do the same.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

After each petition:

We are waiting, Jesus;
come and be with us soon.

Pastor's closing prayer:

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Peace

God is in our midst and Christ brings peace and healing.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

In a spirit of joy, we share the peace of Christ with one another.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

During the Musical Offering, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated. If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Musical Offering

Veni, Come, O Lord
Adult Choir

Wagner

We rise in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts. May you bless them and use them to free the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need. And may we offer you our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love and grace for all people.

Amen

Great Thanksgiving

Rejoice, God is with you!

And also with you!

Rejoice, for you have nothing to fear from our God.

Our hearts give thanks for the One who renews us with love.

Rejoice, this is the feast day of our God.

Our glad songs echo the One who rejoices over us with loud singing.

With those you have already gathered home,
with those who cry out to you in our time,
we sing praises to you, giving thanks.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy



O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Lord! The God of hosts, by all a - dored. The
Loud hal-le-lu-jahs to your name; an - gels and ser - a - phim pro-claim; by



earth and heav'n's are full of thee; your light, your pow'r, your ma - jes - ty. Re-
all the pow'rs and thrones in heav'n, e - ter - nal praise is giv - en. Re-



- joice, re-joyce, O ho - ly Lord. The God of hosts, by all a-dored.
- joice, re-joyce, O ho - ly Lord. The God of hosts, by all a-dored.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, as we remember his life, death and rising, we tell that mystery we know as faith:

Christ died, but is alive;
Christ is risen, that we might live;
Christ will come again, to bring us home.

As we place our gifts upon your table of life and hope, may the gentleness of your Spirit be known in the eating of the bread and in the sharing of the cup. We come, not to get what we want, but to receive what we need, the mending of our brokenness so we might embrace the pain, the suffering of the world, touching it with your healing. We feast on the bread of life, we drink deeply of salvation's cup, so we might tell everyone, 'do not be afraid, trust in God.'

Lord's Prayer

Come, God in Community, Holy in One,
come, as we pray as we have been taught.

**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**

Invitation to the table

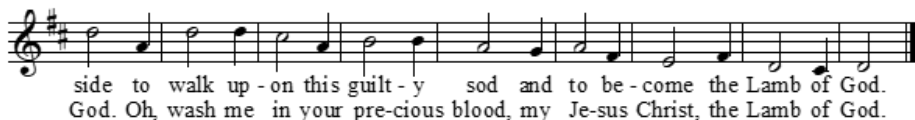
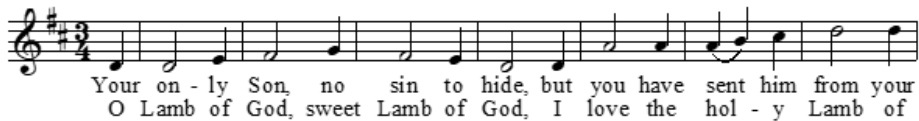
God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God





1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Communion Hymn

Wait for the Lord
Repeat as needed

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music corresponds to the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system corresponds to 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

We have peeked at the light under the stable door.

Do you have the courage to unwrap the gift the Christmas Christ brings?

Go forth now and open the door to let joy break forth.
 Open the gift and give joy to one another.
 Open your heart and let hope, peace, joy and love enter in.
 Amen

Sending Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Dismissal

Be alert. Be faithful.
The day of the Lord is coming.
The kingdom of God is near.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Music

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Cherwein

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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Advent Candle lighting: *Advent Unwrapped*, The United Church of Canada.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children
Nancy Pfeffer, Interim Choir Director

WORSHIP HELPERS

Advent Wreath Lighters

The Osenbach Family

Assisting Minister

Deb Smith

Reader

Charlie K.

Communion Assistants

Robert Neitz, Dianna Olszewski

Greeter

Marian Harrison

Usher

Brenda Truhe

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross, Eric Kahler,
Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Cindy Clark, Terri Hinderliter, Carol Osenbach, Barb Roba, Deb Stevens,
Lynda Swartz, Julie Timmcke, Jennifer Wetzel

