



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 129, Wilton, WI 54670
608-435-6647
December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING Welcome/Announcements

As God's children we are

**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

You are invited to practice God's Love and Mercy by turning to those around you, greeting one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, “Peace be with you,” or something similar.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls.

You know us through and through;

we confess our sins to you.

Remember not our sins;

remember us with your steadfast love.

Show us your ways;

**teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

“Gather Us In”

ELW #532

*Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and 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**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v 1 ELW#257

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Insert

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v 4 ELW #257

WORD

A Reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The 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.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

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

¹⁷The 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
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

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

¹⁹I 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.

²⁰At 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. shout, O Israel!

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O daughter Jerusalem!

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when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely 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.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And 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 this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;**

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

A Reading from Philipians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation

Insert

The holy gospel according to Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. 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. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

¹⁴Soldiers 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."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His 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."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

*Hymn "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (O Savior, Precious Savior) **ELW #241**

*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** (Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.)

Offering

****Offertory Hymn**

*Offertory Prayer

**God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*The Lord's" Prayer

ELW p. 154

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 154

Prayer after Communion

**Holy One, we give you thanks
that in this bread and cup
we have feasted again on your endless love.
Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,
that we may be messengers to prepare your way,
harvesters of justice and righteousness,
and bearers of your eternal Word,
our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn

"Let Justice Flow like Streams"

ELW #717

Dismissal

Go in peace, Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.