

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15 & 16, 2012

5:00 & 8:00

AS WE GATHER

Following the old church custom, the theme for this Sunday is "Rejoice!" On the Advent wreath the solitary pink candle is lighted. (In some traditions, all the candles are the same color, but this ought not distract or diminish from the theme for this particular Sunday in the Church Year.) Along with the two candles from the preceding Sundays in Advent, the increasing light shows we are now getting closer and closer to the nativity birth of our Savior---Christmas! Only one more candle remains to be lit!

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #349 “Hark the Glad Sound”

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev-’ry heart prepare a throne And ev-’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris-’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life." "It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." *Isaiah 49:6*

People: Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and Life.

Pastor: Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(1)

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

People: Lord, we, like John the Baptist, are eager to confess the need to repent of our sin! Yet at times, it is a very costly venture to follow you. We become easily distracted by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded only in your Word of grace. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporal treasures on earth, instead of the eternal treasures of heaven. May we learn to rejoice, proclaim, and confess with the holy church that the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor hear and receive the Gospel of Christ.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done---He has given us solid promises that guard our faith in days of sorrow, confusion, conflict, and pain. He has sent His Son to be His living Word of redemption for us in body, mind, and spirit. He truly is strong to save! Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Sins are forgiven because God's Son, Jesus Christ, is our atonement once and for all!

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(2)

Pastor: Let us pray. You came, Lord Christ, when the time was fulfilled. And we know you will come again when the time is ripe. We see that darkness overtakes the earth and shrouds the people. You say that in this darkness a great light shall rise up. Help us all to see it. Let the light be so clear that even our blind eyes see it and that all nations may walk in it. For your name sake.

People: Amen.

Adapted from *To Live with Christ: Daily Devotions* by Bo Giertz. Translated by Richard Wood and Bror Erickson. English translation copyright (c) 2008 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*The daughter of Zion rejoices over returning home after years of captivity.*) Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

EPISTLE Philippians 4:4-7 (*The Philippians are encouraged to rejoice in the Lord always.*) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Luke 7:18-28 (*John the Baptist and disciples question if Jesus is the Christ---the One who is to come.*) John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive

clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #387 "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev-'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

SERMON

"Are You The One?"

Luke 7:18-28

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before the throne of God's grace and present our petitions with confidence in the Spirit that our heavenly Father hears us for Jesus' sake, for He is kind and full of compassion. King of Israel, you call us from lives of fear to rest in your unfailing embrace and be comforted by your jubilant song.

People: Help all your baptized people to cast off anxiety and turn to you quickly in prayer for every need, that they might know your peace.

Pastor: God of Jacob, you sent your Son into the flesh to gather your people home to you. Strengthen all pastors and servants of the Church to speak your mighty Word with clarity and passion,

People: and by your Spirit open the hearts of all who hear to trust Him who heals the sick, raises the dead and proclaims good news to the poor.

Pastor: Ruler of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that fills them, remember in kindness all those called to public service in our nation and in our communities, especially all who serve in our armed forces.

People: Give them wisdom to know what is just and courage to pursue the same, that our nation might be preserved from discord and be mightily protected against all enemies.

Pastor: O Lord, you set the prisoners free. Your Son freed the disciples of St. John the Baptist from their fears and made them witnesses to His mighty deeds by commanding them to go and tell what they had seen and heard.

People: Give to us, your people, grace in these Advent days to proclaim boldly to all the world the mighty deeds of our Savior.

Pastor: God of all compassion, you lift up those who are bowed down. Remember in your boundless love all who take treatments, the hospitalized, the lonely, the ill, the troubled, the grieving and those remembering loved ones today especially Vince, Russ, Bob, Eleanor, Gil, Nancy, Sarah, Gerald, Joe, Janis, Phil and Jean.

People: Quiet them with your love, comfort them with your presence, let your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Father in heaven, every good and perfect gift comes from your hand. Therefore we rejoice with Frank and Jean in praising you for your blessings in our lives.

People: Grant us all thankful hearts that, day by day, acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us.

Pastor: Faithful One, you keep your promises and you give to the hungry food. May all communicants today receive in joy and faith the gift of the Savior's body and blood that they would rejoice in the Lord always.

People: As we partake, give us the peace of sins forgiven, the joy of knowing our Savior, and the strength to live our lives according to your will and your ways.

Pastor: O Lord our God, your Son lightens the darkness of our hearts by His gracious visitation. We give you thanks for all your servants who have departed this life in His fear and friendship. We ask for comfort for Kathy's family.

People: Keep us in communion with them and strengthen in us the joyful and certain hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Pastor: These things and whatever else you know us to need, most Holy Father, grant us for the sake of Him who is the King of Israel, the Lord who dwells among us even as He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN # 774 "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy"

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #357 "O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

HYMN #343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in
loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank
you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this
Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to
rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled
constantly to serve you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The LORD look on you with favor and + give you
peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen, Amen, Amen!

CLOSING HYMN #353 "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Brining news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator/8:00 Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.

Bob Reynolds, Pam Akey, Jim Adams

Tyler Kroner, Rhiannon Mueller, AJ Olson

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller