

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Lord, Give Me Patience

December 14 & 15, 2013

### AS WE GATHER

“Be patient.” Surely these words are being said by a countless number of parents and families during these weeks before Christmas. When children curiously search for their names on presents under the tree, “be patient.” When students look forward to exchanging gifts at school, “be patient.” When a son or daughter wants to cross off the last day on the family Advent calendar a few days too early, “be patient.” The season of Advent helps to teach us patience. Today’s reading from James reminds us that patience is what the Lord desires of us as we wait for our Savior’s coming, “You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (*James 5:8*). As we wait, our source of patience comes from the One who bore suffering and the cross patiently for us. So, this Advent, we pray; When we seek relief From a long-felt grief, When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring. Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more. *LSB 718:3*

### 5:00 PRESERVICE

*“Advent Meditation”*

*Bell Choir*

### WELCOME

**“The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

Revelation 7:17

### FELLOWSHIP GREETING

### MINISTRY MOMENT

**+ PREPARATION +**

### OPENING HYMN #331 “The Advent of Our King”

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Praise the LORD!

**People: Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**People: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;

**People: again I will say, Rejoice.**

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

### SONG

**“Light One Candle”**

Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,  
He brings peace to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,  
Ev’ry nation will find salvation in Beth’em’s baby boy.

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God, we confess that we have failed to be patient as you desire. We have not endured suffering with our eyes on the cross of Christ. We have looked inward at ourselves instead of seeking the Lord and His

kingdom. Grant us refuge in your infinite mercy, O God, our heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: O Lord God, you are the giver of all good gifts, including the gift of patience. Grant us this fruit of your Spirit that we may patiently await the coming of our Lord; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 35:1–10 (*The ransomed shall return*)

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

### **EPISTLE** James 5:7–11 (*Patience in suffering*)

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

### **8:00 ANTHEM**

*“A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”* Allan Mahnke

*Choir*

(Rise)

### **HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 11:2–15 (*Go and tell*)

When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 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.” As John’s disciples were leaving, 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 fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then 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 the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear.

(Be seated)

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON HYMN**

**“Be Patient, Brothers, for the Lord”**

(Sung to Tune #344 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptists Cry”)

Be patient, brothers, for the Lord. Take heart; await the Son adored.  
As farmers wait for harvest grain, Be steadfast through both sun and rain.

The Lord’s return is soon at hand; Prepare to join the glorious band!  
Behold, show mercy; suffer long. Look forward to the happy throng.

Though you face hardship, pain, and war, Though persecution leaves you sore,  
Fear not; Your Savior stood the test He comes at last to give you rest.

**SERMON**

**“GREAT EXPECTATIONS”**

Matthew 11:2-15

*Like John, the danger is that we expect too little of God, not too much!*

(Rise)

**APOSTLES’ CREED** *(found on the inside 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.

**5:00 BELL ANTHEM**

*“People Look East”*

(Rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each prayer petition:*

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

(Tune #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

O Lamb of God, You take away the whole world’s sin; now hear us pray.

Have mercy on Your people, Lord, and grant Your peace to hearts restored.

O Lamb of God, Emmanuel, Your grace and mercy with us dwell.

(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.

**5:00**

*“Behold the Star”*

*Bell Choir*

**HYMN #348 “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”**

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

**HYMN #797 “Praise the Almighty”**

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him! Yes, I will laud Him until death; With  
songs and anthems I come before Him As long as He allows me breath. From Him  
my life and all things came; Bless, O my soul, Hi holy name. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal; Earthborn they are and soon decay. Vain  
are their counsels at life’s last portal, When the dark grave engulfs its prey. Since  
mortals can no help afford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord. Alleluia,  
alleluia!

Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever Whose help is from the Lord Most High,  
Whom from salvation can nothing sever, And who in hope to Christ draw nigh. To  
all who trust in Him, our Lord Will aid and counsel now afford. Alleluia, alleluia!

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying, Pardon and peace from Him obtain; Ever the  
wants of the poor supplying, Their faithful God He will remain. He helps His  
children in distress, The widows and the fatherless. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise, all you people, the name so holy Of Him who does such wondrous things!  
All that has being, to praise Him solely, With happy heart its amen sings. Children  
of God, with angel host Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, alleluia!

**HYMN #633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”**

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.  
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword:  
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas’chal victim, paschal bread; with  
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have  
sustained us through your Son’s true body and blood. Fortified with the  
forgiveness you promise in your Holy Supper, strengthen us to be  
patient until our Savior’s coming; 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: Rejoice in the Lord always;

**People: again I will say, Rejoice.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you  
peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength  
and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear desire jof ev’ry nation, Joy  
of ev’ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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|-------------------|---|
| Preacher          | Pastor Gregg Stanton                    |
| Liturgist         | Pastor Harold Bender                    |
| Lectors           | Virginia Sell, Marty Osell              |
| Acolytes          | Amanda Crist, Sam Baxter, Adriana Grams |
| Organist          | Roger Gottschalk                        |
| Flute             | Rindee Mowery                           |
| Bell Director     | Jan Schneider                           |
| Choir Director    | Nancy Hoelke                            |
| Music Coordinator | Kim Woller                              |

## **Advent Worship**

*“Symbols of Eternity”*

*Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00am & 6:00pm*

A tasty Advent Dinner of Chili with toppings, French bread with butter, tossed green salad and chocolate cake will be served beginning at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.

*Christmas Eve ~ December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00, 6:00 & 11:00pm*

*Christmas Morning ~ December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am*

*New Years Eve Worship ~ December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm*

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, the Light that the darkness of sin and death cannot destroy! What a joy it is to celebrate the birth of the Light! What a joy to hold a burning candle in your hand, reminding you that Jesus came for you! The 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services will be candlelight services. This year we will have real candles at our services; however, children 10 and under will need to hold a candle with their parents for safety and wax issues. Come and rejoice in the birth of the Light of God's Love and Life found in Jesus.

## **Adult Instruction Class**

A twelve week class on the chief teachings of the Christian Faith will be held starting in January. The class will be held Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:30 a.m. beginning Saturday, January 11. This class is for those interested in membership here at St. Paul's or for current members who would like to grow in understanding better the teachings of the Bible. A sign-up sheet is found on the table in the narthex (church lobby). Or you can call the church office at 541-6250.

## **Special Mission Speaker**

Rev. Charles Ferry, a former member of St. Paul's, will be our special guest preacher on the weekend of December 28-29. The Lord is calling Pastor Ferry to do mission work in Indonesia. Our Church Council has decided to be a "Together in Mission" congregation to support the mission work God is calling our brother in Christ to do. Pastor Ferry will speak at all three services and will give us information about the mission at Bible Class in the fellowship hall at 9:15 am on Dec. 29. *Please plan to be in worship and bring an extra offering to support this work.*

**Need help with your Christmas shopping? Kids Bible Hour can help!** We will be selling the 2014 City Books (for \$20) and the Cash Coupon cards (for \$10) following all services this weekend. They can also be purchased during Kids Bible Hour in Room 103, by contacting Diane Ross (327-2154) or Carol Percell (541-9515), or in the church office. Many great deals and discount await you.

**Office Computers Needed:** Several computers in the office are in dire need of upgrading. The Church Council approved a resolution by the Planning Committee to move forward in this area. Yet, we need funding as there are no budgeted funds for these replacements. Two computers will be replaced using memorial funds, but we are seeking additional funds for the five other computers that need to be replaced, which will run about \$3,000. If you are willing to help in this endeavor, please use the third line of your church envelope and write in "Computer Funds" and the amount you are donating. Thanks be to God for all who are willing to support this need.