



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023
Peace Lutheran Church
Hutchinson, MN

Bulletins for 6:30pm & 8:30am

WELCOME

HYMN 345 (Maroon): Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

INVOCATION - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

6:30pm Kiera Lieder and Maggie Henke-Rannow, 8:30am Gwen Wichman & Kelby Wichman

On this third week of Advent, we light the candle of joy. When Christ is in our lives, he brings the fullness of joy. He anoints our hearts with gladness. When Jesus was born, the angels said that His coming was good news of great joy for all people. Because Christ has come to us, we can live every day in the joy of the Lord.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98: 4).

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! (1 Chronicles 16:10).

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22).

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)

We light this candle in joy, the joy of our coming Savior, Jesus.

(Light two blue candles and the pink candle)

Come, Lord Jesus. **Come and bring us joy.**

**SONG: 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CONFESSION

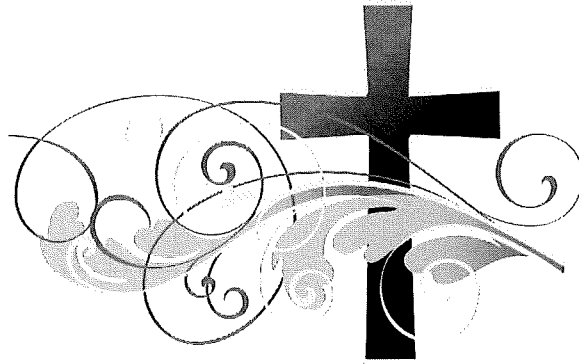
God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show His infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of Christ, who came indeed, and will come again. **Amen.**

SONG: ADVENT KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Gracious God and Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, restore, renew us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Come, Lord Jesus, come.



8:30am Baptism of Hudson Roach

8:30am HYMN 725 (Maroon): Children of the Heavenly Father



Readers: 6:30pm Joanne Keilen; 8:30am Gwen Wichman and Kelby

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.^[a]

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;

⁶ but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

⁷ Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

6:30pm & 8:30am GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, HYMN G701 (Green): Advent of a New Creation

Like children gazing 'neath the tree, at presents wrapped so wondrously,

We ask with hope, "What could it be; this gift of God for you and me?"

We welcome with anticipation, the advent of a new creation.

▲ Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We welcome with anticipation, The advent of a new creation.

GOSPEL READING: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they

asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

6:30pm THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN 349 (Maroon): Hark the Glad Sound

SERMON "In the Midst of Despair—A Planting of the Lord" (Isaiah 61:1-11) Pastor Meyer

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it along to others. As it is passed back to the center aisle, please take the opportunity to note the names of others seated in your pew.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God), page 198

HYMN 359 (Maroon): Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

HYMN 366 (Maroon): It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

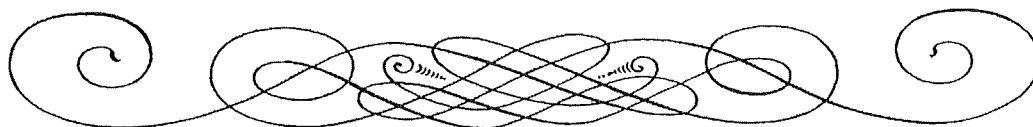
HYMN: Arise, Your Light Is Come

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Portions of liturgy and artwork from the *Lutheran Service Book and Creative Worship*, Copyright 2006, 2023, Concordia Publishing House. Scripture quotations from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*.



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23: No Worship.

*Sunday, Dec. 24 services: 9:00am worship (Sanctuary), Fourth Sunday of Advent
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study

*Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm.

*Christmas Day, December 25 at 9:00am

*Communion at all Christmas Eve and Day services

December 27 – No classes or activities.

December 30-31: Normal worship times.
6:30pm, 8:30am, 10:30am (communion at all)
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study

January 3 – Normal Wednesday Schedule
11:45am Lunch and Bible Study resumes
Release time, Confirmation and Tiger Tweens resume.

January 6-7, Epiphany – Normal worship and Bible Study times
Sunday School Sings at 10:30am