

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

INVITATORY and CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 126:3*

Pastor: Give glory to the coming King!

People: Oh, come, let us worship Him.

Pastor: The LORD has done great things for us,

People: And we are filled with joy.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (Lutheran Service Book, #345)

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,

All you children of the day!”

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earthbound soul arise;

Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,

Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

One and all, to be forgiv’n;

So, when next He comes in glory

And the world is wrapped in fear,

He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Hail, hosanna, Righteous Monarch,
God of faithfulness and peace!
To Your holy name we render
Praises that shall never cease:
“Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit
While eternal ages run!”

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: To fill hearts with joy is God’s own doing, beloved! He accomplishes this work through His Son, Jesus Christ, Whom the Scriptures address by the Messianic title, “The Joy of the LORD.” This joy, Jesus, God made flesh for us; He is our strength, our song, and our peace. What Jesus did for us on the cross is the greatest of God’s miracles and the deepest of His mysteries. Who can measure love that sacrifices itself for sinners, suffering their punishment, paying their debt, and securing their pardon?

People: Who can count the blessings that are ours in Jesus? To Him we turn in penitence and gratitude. Through Christ, and in the assurance of forgiveness for His sake, we confess our sinfulness to God and one another. To Him we cry, “Lord, have mercy,” knowing with faith’s certainty that He will turn our guilt to His innocence and our repentance to rejoicing.

Pastor: Amen, dear ones, amen! Your faith is not misplaced; it rests on the promises of the ever-faithful God, Who has opened heaven to you in the death and resurrection of His Son. As a called and ordained servant of this gospel, and with joy in the Lord Jesus, Who bestowed on His Church the authority to forgive sin, I, therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Spirit of God, in Your great goodness spare us from joy that is not real, from every cheap and unenduring substitute. Keep us mindful of Satan’s

allurements, that in this season when emotions are fragile and schedules are overly-crowded we may not be deceived by false promises of pleasure but instead by divine truth be led to a lowly manger and a bloodied cross, there to find through an empty tomb the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

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

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.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

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

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. He Who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *John 1:6–8, 19–28*

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

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 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?” 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.”

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

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (LSB, #515)

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!

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SERMON: “The 12 Days of Advent” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

OFFERTORY HYMN: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (LSB, #344, verse 5)

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*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.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment" (LSB, #511)

Herald, sound the note of judgment,
Warning us of right and wrong,
Turning us from sin and sadness
Till once more we sing the song. **Refrain**

REFRAIN

Sound the trumpet!
Tell the message:
Christ, the Savior king, is come!
Herald, sound the note of gladness;
Tell the news that Christ is here;
Make a pathway through the desert
For the one who brings God near. **Refrain**

Herald, sound the note of pardon—
Those repenting are forgiv'n;
God receives His wayward children,
And to them new life is giv'n. **Refrain**

Herald, sound the note of triumph;
Christ has come to share our life,
Bringing God's own love and power,
Granting vict'ry in our strife. **Refrain**

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DISMISSAL:

Please be seated
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus
with

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe

Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – Ken Alford

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman