



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Community Transformed By Christ To Be Christ In The World  
501 East 23rd Street Hibbing, MN 55746 (218) 263-7244

---

+Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

*Prayer request and visitor cards can be found in the pew rack.*

(\*) Denotes when to stand, if you are able. **Boldface** readings are spoken together.

**Prelude** "Christmas Brings Joy to Every Heart" by: Weyse/Paxton  
Nadine Berg

### Welcome and Announcements

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

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**



## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, **Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Reading**

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

A Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. 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 wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being 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 with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

**Anthem (Temple Choir)**

*"Advent Prayer"*

**Children's Message**

Pastor Kevin C. Olson

"Gathering At the Manger" The Children will sing  
"Away In A Manger"  
"Hark the Harold Angels Sing"  
"Joy To the World"

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

p.151a

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**\*Gospel**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for 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, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*"Messianic Expectation"*

Pastor Kevin C. Olson

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"*

#286

**\*Apostles' Creed**

Along with the church, we confess our faith.

**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**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Reception of Offering** *"The Snow lay on the Ground "* arr. by: James Denton  
Nadine Berg

**\*Offertory Response**

"O Come O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 (v. 3)

**\*Offering Prayer**

God of all creation, **all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Communion**

*All who believe that God is present in this meal are invited to share in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Grape juice is available upon request. With their parents permission, all children are also invited to commune. Come forward with your hands cupped to receive. Children not communing are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing. Communion will be brought to those unable to come to the chancel in the front pew and handicap row.*

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

p.152

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Preface**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

p.153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

**\*Words of Institution**

**\* Lord's Prayer**

p.154b

**\*Lamb of God**

p. 154

Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\*Communion Hymns**

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" #250  
"I want to Walk as a Child of the Light" #815  
"Comfort, Comfort Now People" #256

**\*Prayer after Communion**

O God, **we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

"My Soul Proclaims your Greatness" #251

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"In Dulci Jublio" by: *Gilbert Martin*

Nadine Berg

Sundays and Seasons v.20180327.1136  
Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP**

Pastor: Kevin C. Olson  
Acolyte: Archer Snow  
Lector: Patty Rediske  
Cantor: Paula Jackson  
Choir Director: Roy Berg  
Organist: Nadine Berg  
Videographer: Dustin Davidson/John Law  
Ushers: Al Lipke / Greg Carmen Solberg  
Tellers: Kathy Anderson & Dick Hemmersbaugh  
Altar Guild: Peggy Graham

## **NEWS & NOTES**

Best Wishes to Jack Lund who celebrates his Birthday on Thursday. Happy Birthday!!

Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Terry Lee's Family in loving memory of him



We extend our sympathy to Donna Monson and family on the death of her daughter Charlene M. Bolen. Charlene died on November 26<sup>th</sup> in Duluth. May peace be with you.

## **Calendars**

Calendars and note cards will be available in the Narthex Sundays before service, in Fellowship Hall during coffee fellowship and in the office during business hours. Calendars cost \$8 each or 2/\$15, 3/\$20 and only \$5 each for any more. Thanking You in advance for your support.

## **AEOA Let's help Those In Need:**

The AEOA is accepting new or like new items for Home on the Range! Items needed: Lotion, Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Brush/comb, Towels, twin Sheets, Pillows, Blankets, Toilet Paper, Paper Towel, Cleaning Products and Feminine Hygiene Products. Thank you for your Consideration! Financial and Annual Meeting in 12/24 9 a.m. bulletin and 12/31 bulletin

## **Note from our Financial Secretary:**

If you wish to have a donation recorded for the fiscal year 2023 please have your contribution into the office on or before Sunday, December 31, 2023. Thank you for your generosity.

## **Fudge Orders are ready for pick up today in the Fellowship Hall between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

If you were unable to pre-order, stop downstairs there may be some still available for your gift giving and/or your enjoyment.

Save the date: **Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 28, 2024** following Worship. Annual Committee Reports need to be completed by Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.

## **Christmas Eve Broadcast**

Our regular 9:00 service will be broadcast at 10:30 am and our 3:30 Christmas Service will be recorded and broadcast at 9:00 am on 12/25.

## **OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK**

### **Today, 17<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 Worship &  
Sunday School  
10:00 Coffee & Fellowship  
10:30 Radio Broadcast  
1240 AM WMFG

### **Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 Staff  
4:00 Council Mtg.

### **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 Bible Study  
1:00 Food Shelf  
7:00 Confirmation  
Grades 7<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup>  
Choir