

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 13, 2020 - Advent 3

Welcome: *We would like to thank Melissa Lalsingh and Madeline Frey for reading the lessons.*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C: And also with you.*

Call to Worship for Advent ~ written by Edwina Gateley in *There Was No Path So I Trod One* (1996, 2013). Posted on **Journey with Jesus**. <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/>

God is soaked
in our world.
God's Spirit
lives and breathes
*in and through
all that is.*

We are lost
only when we
do not understand
that God
*is already with
and in
each one of us.*

Our task is recognition
of God's initiative
to be at home in us—
*acceptance
of God-With-Us.*

Then we cannot but
be glad.

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer (Written by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)

Light one candle for joy.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but our joy cannot be contained.

Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe,
Joy pierces our silence with song
interrupts our sighing with laughter
unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,” she whispers,
“and my Spirit rejoices in God my saviour.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

(Light the third candle on the advent wreath)

Song – Blessed Be The God of Israel ¹

Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way,
To tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

The Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ 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 broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³ 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.
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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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

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 the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection

Song: Hark, the Glad Sound!²

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, t'enrich the humbled poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Prayers of the People

We pray: *Lord, in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion (Zoom Only)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us;

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Song – People Look East³

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength, the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. *C: Thanks be to God*

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