



## The Third Sunday In Advent

December 14, 2014

Pastor: Terrel Kesterson

Organist: Sara Pfeiffer

*“The Lord has anointed Me to bring Good News.” (Isaiah 61:1)*

Preservice meditation: Psalm 4 (in your pew Bible)

OPENING HYMN: 62 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”*

Service Of Word And Sacrament, setting 2, page 12 (Worship Supplement)

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.*

*“Prepare” – Responsive Litany*

L: Advent is a time to prepare.

C: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY FOR OUR GOD.

L: During Advent we prepare our eyes to see the light of Christ.

C: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY FOR OUR GOD.

L: During Advent we prepare our hearts to receive the Word of Christ.

C: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY FOR OUR GOD.

L: During Advent we prepare to share the joy of Christ.

C: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY FOR OUR GOD.

L: During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

C: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY FOR OUR GOD.

### *Candle Lighting*

Pastor: This morning we light three candles. The FIRST CANDLE reminds us that Advent is a time to wait upon the Lord. We wait for the unfolding of God's plan in accordance with God's time. The SECOND CANDLE reminds us that Advent is also a time to watch.

During Advent, we eagerly watch for God's presence and work in our world. As we light the THIRD CANDLE we also remember that Advent is a time to prepare. During Advent, we prepare ourselves in heart, soul and strength to welcome our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Let each of us ask God to prepare us to celebrate the glory of Christmas.

Second Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (*“the Prophet,”* i.e., prophesied by Moses in Dt. 18:15)

*There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through Him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ... Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

The Apostles' Creed, page 15 (Worship Supplement)

HYMN 92 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”*

### **The Sermon: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

#### **JESUS CAME AND DELIVERED US FROM OUR SINS!**

*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 broken-hearted, 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.***

The Offertory, page 16 (Worship Supplement)

The Offering

HYMN 103 (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“To Shepherds As They Watched By Night”*

The General Prayer, Special Prayers, and The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction, page 21 (Worship Supplement)

CLOSING HYMN: 85 (1-4, 13-15) (TLH) *“From Heaven Above To Earth I Come”*

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WELCOME, VISITORS! You are always welcome. Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY after church we continue our BIBLE STUDY on 1 Peter, and the CHILDREN PRACTICE for the CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE. There will be a PASADENA SERVICE at 6:00 PM.

THURSDAY: CHOIR: 6:30-7:30 PM.

SUNDAY: CHURCH: 10:00 AM; BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY is a COMMUNION Sunday. The CHILDREN PRACTICE after church for the Christmas Eve service.

OUR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE is at 5:00 PM.

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE is at 10:00 AM.

OUR DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR is in your MAILBOX.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Wayne Eichstadt, co-pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Redemption Lutheran Church, Lynnwood (Seattle area), WA. Pastor Burgess Huehn (formerly of the Missouri Synod) is now serving as the regularly-called pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI. Pastor Frank Gantt of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD, has the call to Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI. PULPIT VACANCIES: Mt. Olive, Lamar, CO; Calvary, Marquette, MI; Redemption, Lynnwood, WA; Resurrection; Corpus Christi, TX; and Resurrection, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

WE MAY PUT TREATS for the CHILDREN on CHRISTMAS EVE in the BOX on top of the KITCHEN REFRIGERATOR.