

December 15th, 2024 | 10:30
Advent 3



ADVENT

Preacher: Rev. Carlton Andersen

St. Luke's Lutheran Church & Preschool/4K
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We at St. Luke's dedicate ourselves to grow in faith and love, to serve together, and to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

WELCOME & GREETING

GATHERING SONG~ 'All Is Well'

All is well, all is well, angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.
Sing al-le, sing alleluia.

All is well, all is well, let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger.
Sing al-le. Sing alleluia.

All is well, all is well, lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, all is well.

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(Rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

C: We thank You, O Lord!

P: The Lord who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: We praise You, O Lord!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Confident of receiving God's great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

C: Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives.

Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord Jesus, and come and help us by Your might that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SONG~ 'The People That Walk In Darkness'

Verse 1

The people that walk in darkness have seen, have seen a great light.
And on those who dwell in endless gloom, a light has shone.

Refrain

For a Child is born this day: Rejoice, rejoice.
Daughter of Zion, awake. The glory of God is born.

Verse 2

And they shall name Him counselor, shall call Him mighty God.
And He shall rule from age to age: Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

Verse 3

Darkness covers the earth; thick clouds govern its people.
But the Lord will bring them light; the Lord will bring them light. *Refrain*

Verse 4

The people that walk in darkness have seen, have seen a great light.
And on those who dwell in endless gloom, a light has shone. *Refrain*

FIRST READING~ Micah 5:2-5a

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be their peace.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING~ Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.' "

⁸First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING~ Luke 1:39-56

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

⁴⁶And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me--
holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ The Apostles' Creed

ALL: 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.

CHILDRENS TIME

MESSAGE SONG~ 'Breathe of Heaven'~ Solo

MESSAGE

(Be seated)

THE GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS & WE CARE CARDS

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG~ 'Christmas Offering'

Verse 1: Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

Chorus 1: I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

Verse 2: The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

Chorus 2: I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You

Ending: We bring an offering to You oh *(repeat multiple times)*

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. (after final petition: Amen.)

THE LORDS PRAYER

All: 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.

SENDING SONG~ 'Wake From Your Sleep'

Wake from your sleep, a Savior is born.
God's Holy Child gives light to this morn,
all our darkness to dispel.
Praise to our God whose glory we tell.

Come from your fields as shepherds of old.
Welcome this child whom prophets foretold.
God has made the earth His home.
Praise to our God, The Savior has come.

Stay with us now, O Lord of the earth.
Make of our hearts a place for Your birth.
Though our cares be great or small,
Jesus the Lord, be born in us all.

Now shall the earth take joy in her tears.
Now shall our hearts be turned from their fears.
All the earth shall sing God's praise.
Jesus the Lord, be born on this day.

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SENDING

P: 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.

C: Amen, Amen.

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

POST-SERVICE MUSIC