



(and they asked John:)

Who are you?

Third Sunday In Advent

St. John's Lutheran Church—Sherburn, MN

Sunday, December 13, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Pastor.....Rev. Steven D. Wilson, 507-236-1181
Vicar.....Mr. Jeff Hagen 507-236-3114
Secretary.....Mrs. Kathleen Potts
Custodian.....Janet Holtz
Elders.....Mr. Kent Meyers & Mr. Nate Amborn

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*Welcome: We are happy that you have joined us for worship.
May your worship of the living Lord enrich your faith and fill
your life with the lively hope and lasting joy.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 13, 2020
9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Joy

P Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

C We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

P Restore to me the joy of our salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

C Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and Life.

P Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

OPENING HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" LSB #349
vs 1-4

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us your salvation.

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

C that glory may dwell in our land.

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before him

C and make his footsteps a way.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us your salvation.

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC BY SMALL GROUP "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, you once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

(Isaiah speaks to the people of Israel the glory of Jesus during the Year of the Lord's Favor)

¹The 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; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful head-dress 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For 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. ⁹Their 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. ¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

(The Apostle Paul, in speaking to the church at Thessalonica, reveals that sanctification is God's will for them)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now 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. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE LSB 156

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

Holy Gospel John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glorify to You, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked

him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOLY BAPTISM—Third

P How can water do such great things?

C **Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "The Light of the World"

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!" LSB #345 vs 1-5

MESSAGE "John Came To Witness To The Light"

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!" LSB #341 vs 1-5

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

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.**

CLOSING HYMN "On What Has Now Been Sown" LSB #921 vs 1-3

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In Person Sunday Worship Services: Plans are to hold worship services on Sundays in person for the remainder of the month of December at 9:00 a.m. We will also Livestream these services. Please continue to watch your emails, church website page and Facebook for announcements.

Poinsettias We will display poinsettias in the church for Christmas. If you would like to place one in memory of a loved one please order by December 17. Cost is \$19.00. These poinsettia memorials will be printed in the Christmas bulletin, posted on the website at Christmas and published in the January newsletter.

Remember our Shut Ins This Christmas: Christmas stationery has been left in the church office for LWML members and anyone else that would like to write Christmas greetings on for our shut ins. The greetings will be mailed to them for Christmas. Deadline to write on the stationery is Wednesday, December 16.

Sunday School Christmas Program for this year has been cancelled.

Confirmation Classes for 7th & 8th grade will be held at the church this Wednesday the 16th at 3:45. Please remember to wear your masks and bring all your material with you. If you cannot attend, please contact us at the church office. No class on December 23 & 30.

Christmas Eve Services: It is our plan to have Christmas Eve services both at 5:00 and 9:00 . Watch for a link on the church website, Facebook and email to a survey this coming week for you to complete. This will help us in planning for the services with regards to occupancy. Please check emails and website for further registration information.

Youth Envelope Fundraiser: The youth are raising money to go to the next National Youth Gathering which will be held in Houston, Texas in July, 2022. Their envelope fundraiser is located in the hallway by the coat rack.

Live Nativity: You can watch a virtual Live Nativity today, December 13, 4:00 p.m. on Facebook: "Immanuel Lutheran Church" or YouTube: "Immanuel Lutheran Church and School Lakefield. This Live Nativity will be done by Immanuel Lutheran School of Lakefield.

Take My Moments and My Days

Today, Sunday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Worship
No Sunday School

Wednesday, December 16

3:45 p.m. Confirmation

Thursday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Circuit Pastors @ Lakefield

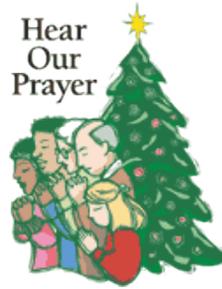
Sunday, December 20

9:00 a.m.. Worship with Communion

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service
9:00 a.m. Candlelight Service

In Our Prayers Karen Brolsma, Connie Markquart, Dennis Cook (brother of Margo Ballard), Renee Amborn, Nic Potthoff, Lois Anderson



Coping With Cancer: Brandon Krumwiede, Diane Beseke, Shirley Skogerboe, Serena Johnson, Marlene Kuntz, Tom Wescott, Bob Blazejak, Andrea Mileham, Cindi Crissinger, Lori Koerselman, Julie Krogman, Donna Nawrocki, Paul Overgaard, Elsie Swanson, Shelly Callahan, Gary Maday, Ginny Anderson, Larry Norem, Lacy McNicol, Roger Spiegel, Cyndi Johnson, Gloria Maschoff, Robert Ziemer, Kay Groth, Perry Caven, Harv Baird

Care List: Paul Anderson, Norma Brolsma, Joanne Sathoff, Sue Nelson, Korrie Crouch, Kurt Jans, Mary Kay Schultz, Bruce Behne, Steve Luhmann, LaVerna Diekmann, Carroll Behne, Theodore Carnehl, Reinold Hagen, Verna Bliesmer, Les Anderson, Taylor Antony, Glenna Shanley, Terri Schultz, Butch Pierson, Joyce Hansen Picken, Lorraine Gagnon, Sammie Moeller, Linda Chase, Lois Anderson, Adam Janssen, Helen Roebbeke, Bob Hoffmeyer, Marcella Brolsma, Bob Brolsma, and those we name in our hearts. *(Please help us keep this care list updated. We would like to know if families would like us to continue to have them on our care list, contact Pastor or the church office.)*

Members Celebrating Birthdays This Week Renee Amborn, Mary Swanson, Braelynn Sparks, Gabriella Andersen, Kari Brolsma, Jodi Schermerhorn, Mitchell Wallerstedt, Skyler Kennedy, Myrna Peters, Charlie Reigel, Sierra Williamson, Kyle Steffen, Arron Hecker, Cooper Stanton, Nora Fitzgerald, Florine Brolsma, Lori Groshens, Logan Kosbab, Erma Larson

Members Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries This Week: Vern & Mary Swanson, Dick & Shirley Brolsma

We Remember the family and friends of Loraine Bonin (mother of Deb Schwager). Loraine was called to her eternal rest on December 5 and her funeral was held at Kramer Family Funeral Home Chapel in Sherburn on December 12.