

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor

Dan Rees - Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Christ's blessings to all! **To our visitors**, we rejoice to have you gathered together with us in our Lord's House this day & look forward to having you with us again. If you are searching for a Church home, **please introduce yourself to Pastor** afterwards, or indicate such together **with your contact information** in the red 'Fellowship Booklets' located in each pew.

(Bold – Congregation speaks

Bold Italic – Congregation sings or chants

Hymns in folder)

The Order of Service without Holy Communion

Prelude

Hymn –#68

"The Advent of Our King"

Invocation:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Confession of Sins and Pronouncement of Grace

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Amen.

Introit *Ps. 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7*

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.**

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

The Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray

The Collect for The Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ The Catechism Review – Sacrament of the Altar

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say; “forgiveness of sins.”

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹ 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
brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those
who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ 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.
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 wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant
with them.
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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 Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

The Triple Hallelujah

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Glory be to Thee, 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.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

The Apostles' Creed

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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified,

dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn – #351

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

Sermon – “God’s Blessing For Our Sanctification”

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

- I. The God of peace wills our complete sanctification.
- II. God is faithful and will do this.

The Offertory (*stand*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Presentation of the Offerings

The Prayer of The Church

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Hymn – #73

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

The Collect for The Word / The Church (*stand*)

Amen.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Hymn - #74

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Silent Prayer & Postlude

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +

DAILY READINGS

December 13: Is. 29:15–30:14; Rev. 1:1–20; 14: Is. 30:15–26; Rev. 2:1–29; 15: Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22; 16: Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; 17: Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; 18: Is. 34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17; 19: Is. 40:1–17; Rev. 7:1–17.

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