

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **LCFS Christmas Giving Tree Donations are due today. Giving is easy.**
- **Advent Midweek 3 – Wed, Dec 16 (7 PM)**
- **Christmas Eve Family – Thursday, Dec 24 (7 PM) Sign up Genius**
- **Christmas Candlelight and Communion Thurs, Dec 24 (11:30 PM)**

HYMN No. 366 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (vss. 1 & 4)

**It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.**

INVOCATION

**P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence,
confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.**

C: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may be assured of the forgiveness of our sins, and with a renewed spirit, authentically display the holiness of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Because of Jesus we can take the prophet Isaiah's words to heart and say:

C: "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."

P: Fellow Redeemed, the true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes them His beloved children. Upon this, your confession and faith I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And 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. Now let us walk in the light as He is in the light!

C: Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

HYMN "We Light the Advent Candle" (vss. 1-3)

**We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message—
A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world, abide with us that we may rejoice in Your gracious presence, pray to You in every need, and give thanks for all Your blessing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

**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;
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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 *Thessalonians 5:16–24* (Rejoice always)

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 prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

L: Alleluia! Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

C: Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6–8, 19–28* (The testimony of John the Baptist)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These 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.

HYMN No. 380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The Herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The Herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The Herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

SERMON "Who is the King of Glory" Pastor Matt

HYMN OF FAITH No. 368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. Glo----- ria, in excelsis Deo**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? Glo----- ria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Glo----- ria, in excelsis Deo...**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P: Come, Advent God, and complete the special work of love which You began before the foundations of the world and made complete in sending Your beloved Son Jesus. Many today are cast down with spiritual needs, thirsting for the peace of your forgiveness and the warmth of your healing love. Come to them with the grace they desperately need; In the hour of our great need,
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P: Come, Advent God, for many are in despair through physical hardship, enduring illness and crippling ailments, seeking relief from their burdens and hope in the midst of their cares. Many lives are affected by the Coronavirus, not just physically, but economically. Food banks are being pushed to their limits as people are searching for ways to feed their families. Businesses are closing leaving many with no way to make a living. Evictions and foreclosures are going up daily. Many are turning to drugs and alcohol to relieve themselves from the pain of their inability to find solutions and from the imposed isolation they are enduring. Come to them with Your healing aid. In the hour of all our physical needs,
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P: Come, Advent God, for many today have minds and souls filled with distrust and hatred,
lives shackled by obsession and bias. Restrain the evil that surrounds us, Lord, and open new avenues of conversation, understanding and peace. Come alongside those so oppressed with Your Spirit of Compassion and Wisdom. In the hour of our great spiritual need,
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P: Come, Advent God, to Your holy church throughout the world which needs Your saving help from everything that threatens its life and mission.
Where it is persecuted, keep it faithful.
Where it persecutes, rebuke it.
Where it is seduced by affluence, shake it to its core.
Where it is self-satisfied, thoroughly unsettle it.
Where it is weak, poor, and meek, bless it with your joy, peace and strength.
In the hour of Your Church's well-being and established purpose;
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P: Come, Advent God, to hearts that are broken on account of death. Give us faith to believe that while death still comes to all, salvation and eternal life has been promised to everyone who believes and is baptized. Fill our sister Gwen Borsch with the peace that surpasses understanding as she mourns the passing of her dear friend, Beverly Boyland. Soothe every tender heart who grieves today. In the hour of all our sadness and sorrow,
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Come, Advent God, to those who praise you this week in their Birthday celebrations. Be pleased to visit Karla Weaver, Erik Lintvedt, Dale Schutte, Gwen Borsch, Lauren Williams, and Luke Lesire with Your holy presence.

**Let Your favor also warm the hearts of Eric & Maurine Trapp, and Rick & Barb Applegate on the occasions of their anniversaries. Though all our festivities are limited due to the current pandemic, help us to discover anew the joy of Your presence and favor. In the hour of our rejoicing,
C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Come, Advent God, and complete your work in Jesus Christ, through whom we offer these prayers and in whom we bind ourselves and pray as He has taught us, saying:

**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...**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

Numbers 6:24–26

- P:** The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD smile upon you and + give you peace.
- C:** Amen.

HYMN No. 357

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(vss. 1,5,7)

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (refrain)

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (refrain)

SENDING

- P:** Now go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.