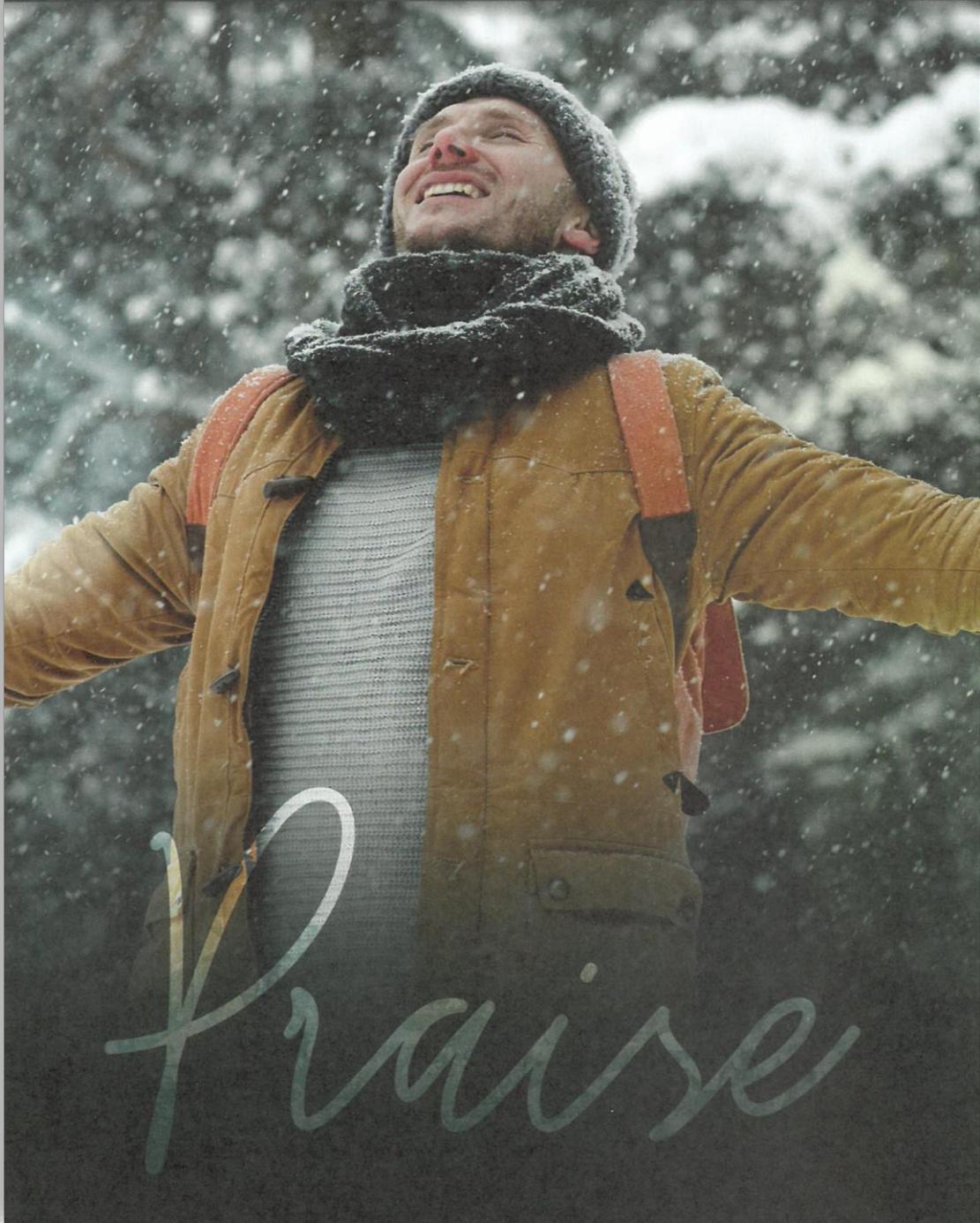


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

PREPARE YE



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Third Sunday of Advent

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PREPARE YE THE SEASON OF ADVENT “Praise”

PREPARE YE

**“Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.” *Isaiah 40:3***

Welcome to our Advent worship, Each week in this series we will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. In our worship for the third week in Advent we will celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. **Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.**

*“Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.”
*Psalm 30:4**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

(Three blue candles are lit.)

We light the third candle on the Advent wreath as we praise God for the gift of his Son!

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus!

We sing songs and hymns of praise to express our joy at Christmas. One day we will join all the saints and angels and praise God forever for sending Jesus to be our Savior.

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your truth and your beauty, Father, forgive us:

Save us and help us.

For turning to what is dirty and ugly, beastly and unsightly; Father, forgive us:

Save us and help us.

For often approving of what is sinful and dark; Father, forgive us:

Save us and help us.

For having no song to sing, no joy in our heart; Father, forgive us:

Save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from the beauty of the Gospel by temptations in the world around us; Father, forgive us:

Save us and help us. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus! Jesus is the Prince of Peace and his atoning sacrifice, shed blood and third-day victory over death delivers divine peace to all who are penitent and contrite. Rejoice in the Lord always!

Again I will say, rejoice.

OPENING SONG

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;*

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!*

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE

ADVENT LITANY – “Praise”

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Sing with Moses and the people of Israel, saying—

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, she asked,

Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Again I will say, rejoice!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Dear Father, thank you for giving joy to Mary, Elizabeth and her son John as they faced overwhelming challenges and difficulties. Give us the same Holy Spirit so that we, with rejoicing hearts, may believe and be used to accomplish your holy will; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 15:1-3

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. ²The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:4-8

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*The leader says the lines and performs the motions.
The children and congregation repeat the words
and motions line by line.*

Mary, Jesus' mother
(Rock a "baby" in your arms)
Went on a trip to see
(Walk in place)
Elizabeth, John's mother,
(Rock a "baby" in your arms)
Part of her family.
(Hug self)
Elizabeth was filled with joy
(Raise hands high in surprise)
And said, "How can it be
(Tap side of head with finger, as if thinking)
That you, the mother of my Lord,
(Point forward)
Have come to visit me?"
(Point at self)

Family Advent Craft: Invitation to Christmas Worship

Family Advent Conversation

*Instructions and questions for today's craft
are at the end of the bulletin.*

SERMON

"Long Dark Hallways"

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

"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.***

*Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

***Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain***

***Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain***

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Gracious Father, we long to live much less of a driven life and much more of a called life. We long to live with less fear and more freedom, less by frenzy and more by faith, with fewer obsessions and with much more adoration of you, the God of all peace. So we heed the words of St. Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

Again I will say, "Rejoice."

Gracious Father, forgive the times when you call us forward and we do nothing and make excuses. Instead, enable us to be like Mary as we go forward, always forward, forever forward—marching to the words, "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

Again I will say, "Rejoice."

Gracious Father, for many of us what hinders most is fear. The fear of not being enough and having enough, the fear of losing face and losing control, the fear of missing the mark and missing out. Only your presence with us in Jesus our Lord can keep us from falling into the pit of worry and anxiety. That's why we decide to, "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

Again I will say, "Rejoice."

Gracious Father, drive out everything in our lives that holds us back from full-hearted and all-out devotion to you. Your Son lived a life of perfect obedience for us as the second Adam, fulfilling everything you require of us. Christ's resurrection from the dead on the third day is the firstfruits and guarantee that one day we will be as lovely as you and as loving as you. What a glorious day that will be! That's why we say, "Rejoice in the Lord always!"

Again I will say, "Rejoice."

Gracious Father, we place ourselves, these prayers and those we love before your throne of grace, trusting in the powerful and priceless name of Jesus.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Again I will say, rejoice.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

*All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise God's name!.

Thanks be to God.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

*Please send your gifts to your Treasurer or
give through [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) (link on [oneinchristlutheranparish.org](https://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org))*

Postlude



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Family Advent Craft: Invitations to Christmas Worship

Needed: 3” x 5” (or larger) index cards, ruled or unruled; pens, markers, colored pencils and crayons.

Directions:

1. Use one whole card for each invitation. On one side print the date, time and location of one or more of your church’s Christmas services and/or concerts. In some cases we may need/wnat to put the online address to watch the worship.
2. Decorate the opposite (unruled) side of the card with a colorful Christmas picture—Jesus in the manger, the star of Bethlehem or shepherds and angels.
3. Deliver your finished invitations to friends and neighbors and encourage them to come and worship the Savior!

Family Advent Conversation

Discuss these questions as you work on the craft or after the craft is complete:

1. What are you most excited about as you wait for Christmas to come?
2. What is your favorite Christmas song to sing in church?
3. Who will you invite to church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day?