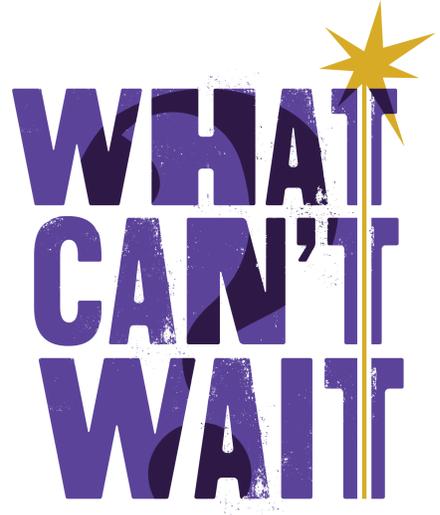


# December 11, 2022

## Third Sunday of Advent

*\*You are invited to read responses found in **bold***  
*\*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

*Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*



## we GATHER here

**Prelude** — “Savior of the Nations Come”

Setting by Paul Manz

### Words of Welcome

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God’s name forever.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Gracious God, in front of God and this church, I  
confess— I am quick to complain, quick to criticize and  
conform. I am quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny.  
Instead of singing praise, I often stay silent.

**May the God of shepherds and kings,  
The God of starlight and new life,  
Offer you grace and show you the way home.**

Amen.

**In front of God and this church, we  
confess—**

**We are quick to complain, quick to  
criticize and conform. We are quick to  
forget, quick to doubt and deny. Instead  
of singing praise, we often stay silent.**

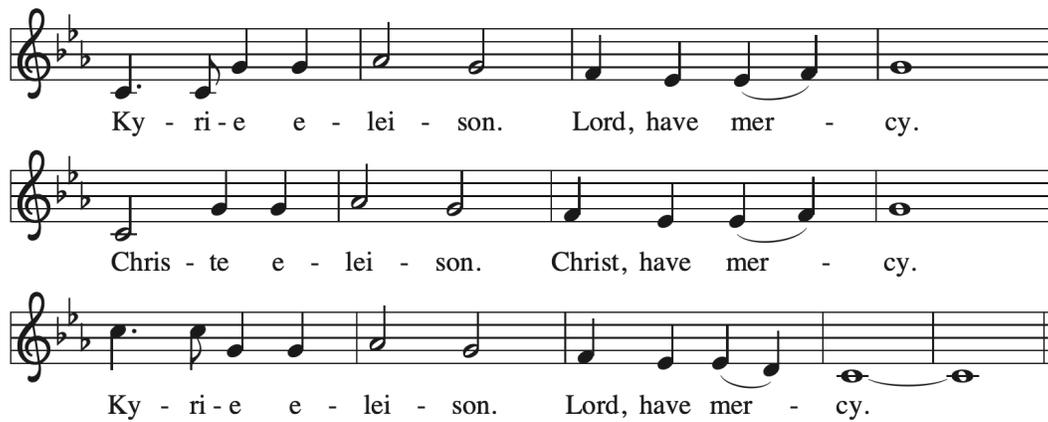
May the God of shepherds and kings,  
The God of starlight and new life,  
Offer you grace and show you the way  
home. **Amen.**

Go forth boldly in the assurance that your  
sins are forgiven  
in the name of the one who is coming and is  
already here,

✠ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*Kyrie** — from *All Creation Sings*, Setting Twelve



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

**\*Advent Prayer Litany**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

**When the sun rises what shall we sing?**

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

**And when chaos and violence echo on the screen?**

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

**For our God is a God of justice and peace.**

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

**So when all is wrong, or all is right,**

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

**Yes, when all is wrong, or all is right,**

We will sing with joy and delight,

Of the God of justice and love and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.” Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Litany: Joy Can't Wait**

Voice A: I will wait for a promotion.

Voice B: I will wait for the sequel.

Voice A: I will wait for space to grow.

Voice B: I will wait for the phone to ring.

Voice A: I will wait for you to ask.

Voice B: I will wait for them to call my name.

Voice A: I will wait for the water to boil.

Voice B: I will wait for the text to come through.

Voice A: I will wait for the second season.

Voice B: I will wait for the beat to drop.

Voice A: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will no longer wait for joy.

Voice A: In a world where suffering and violence plague the news,

I will choose to delight in that which is good.

Voice B: This week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word. May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. Amen.

*All sing “Wait for the Lord” (hymn no. 262) while the Advent wreath is lit:*

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

# we LISTEN and RESPOND

Moments the Children - "What is a Prophet"

Pastor Steve Kidder

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**Psalm 146:5-10** — *Sung all together in unison*

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,  
whose hope is in the | Lord their God;  
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;  
who keeps promis- | es forever;  
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the | captive free.  
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;  
the Lord | loves the righteous.  
The Lord cares | for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.  
The Lord shall | reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

**A Reading from the Letter of James** — James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 257, stanza 1

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**\*Gospel** — Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel of Matthew, the 11th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

**Sermon** — “Is Jesus the One”

Pastor Steve Kidder

**Hymn** — no. 261

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”

**\*Affirmation of Faith** — The 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 power of 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 Intercession

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy God, we rejoice that your promises take on flesh in Jesus. Grant patience to your church awaiting the fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace. Restore in us the hope that we are called to proclaim to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Life-giving God, we rejoice that you coax flowers from the desert and water from the wilderness. Send rain to parched fields and sun to flooded plains. Nurture all that lies sleeping under frozen ground. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we rejoice in your authority as Prince of peace. Deliver us from those who wield power through unjust and oppressive ways. Raise up prophets to speak your truth in this and every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we rejoice that you dwell in human bodies. Renew signs of your joyful presence in people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities. Empower all to embrace their callings and the gifts of your Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, we rejoice that you create us to praise you. Strengthen the voices and hands of all who prepare to celebrate Christ's birth with music, dancing, and proclamation, in worship and in the community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we rejoice that all who die in Christ are raised to new life. We thank you for the lives of those who have prepared the way for us and have now joined the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*  
"Beach Spring"

Setting by Rachel Trelstad Porter

# we SHARE the meal

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Sanctus** — from *Setting Twelve, All Creation Sings*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In gratitude to God, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Invitation to Communion**

Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.  
All are welcome here at Christ's Table.  
God can't wait to meet you here.

**Distribution of Communion**

**Canticle** — hymn no. 250  
**Hymn** — no. 263

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”  
“Savior of the Nations, Come”

## Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of abundance,  
we give you thanks that in this holy meal  
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.  
May the taste of your love remain with us,  
and may our words and our work in your name  
invite others into your bountiful grace.  
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,  
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

## we DEPART for service

### Announcements

\***Sending Hymn** — no. 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

### \***Blessing & Dismissal**

What can't wait? **Hope for a better day.**  
What can't wait? **Peace and repentance, among and within us.**  
What can't wait? **Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**  
What can't wait? **Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**  
God is waiting, and God is ready. **Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.**  
Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

\***Postlude** — “Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

Setting by Dietrich Buxtehude

### Acknowledgements

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Pastor: Steve Kidder  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Music Leader: Sophie Martinez  
Audio/Video: Brett Peterson, Sam Szybnski

Greeter: Michelle Doose, Audrey Menning,  
Reader: Annalise Rivas  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson,  
Acolytes: Paul Szybnski, Graham Menning

Communion Preparers:  
Communion Servers: Lynn Kidder  
Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose, Annalise Rivas

## Announcements

- **Devotional booklets** will continue to be available in the Heartbeat this coming week. Please contact Angela if you would like a black and white version printed for you. Hard copies are available in the gathering area!
- Please attend our **congregation meeting** on Jan. 29. Your participation is very important!
- **Advent Midweek Worship**: Featuring Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **The Giving Tree**: The Altar Guild invites you to contribute to the Giving Tree. This money will be directed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This is a congregational fund that supports people in need. The Giving Tree is located in the Gathering Space during the Advent Season.
- **"No Stress, No Fuss" Christmas Program**: next Sunday morning starting at 9:15am in the Dining Hall!
- **We encourage youth of all ages to attend worship on Sundays!** Children are a blessing and we don't mind a little noise! Busy Bags are available in the back and there are lots of activities near the Pray Ground rug!
- While we are not currently staffing our **Nursery**, it is fully functional and available for families to utilize during our worship. Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day: Nursery Available & Will Be Staffed!
- **Thank you** to Pat Pehrson, Jake Pehrson, and Dave Pehrson for setting up the Nativity scene outside of church prior to the start of Advent. It looks wonderful!
- **Fellowship refreshments** are provided by the Cemetery Committee today.
- While Pastor Chris is away from Dec. 8 - 14, please contact Angela in the church office with any **emergencies**.

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Ellis Jones, Allen Storkson, and Gene Roemhildt.
- We pray for Dorothy Lutz who is in isolation at home with Covid.
- We pray for Dan Polzin who is mourning the loss of his father Ken.
- We pray for the family of Grant Block who passed away on November 16.
- We pray for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.
- We pray for the family of Galen Ribar who passed away on November 30.