

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 DECEMBER 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
2589 – 190TH AVENUE CALAMUS, IA 52729

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 10 (PAGES 203-209)

*The **liturgy** is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The **hymns** begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

~ HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING ~

P: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

C: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

P: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

CANDLE LIGHTING

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

ACCLAMATION: HYMN #715 (REFRAIN)

♪ **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the
Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩
Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

HYMN #242 “AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN”

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE [PAGE 203]

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE [PAGE 204]

♪ **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20 | ISAIAH 12:2-6 | PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION [PAGE 205]

♪ **Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – NOISY OFFERING

SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #244 “REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

P: Living in the Hope of the Gift of Christ's coming again, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

(Each petition ends: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer)

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. *(concluding...our Savior and Lord.)*

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE [PAGE 207]

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

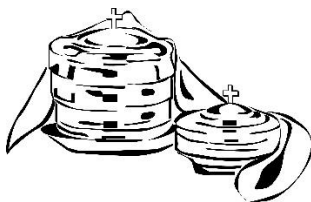
**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table

Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available

**♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

HYMN #239 "HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN

**♪ O come, O 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.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #267 “JOY TO THE WORLD”**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL**POSTLUDE**

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: Caden Will

Lector: Rachel Burke

Communion Assistant: Neil Holmquist

Usher: Eva and Rachel Burke

Cleaner: Brian Bousselot and Mary Timmerman

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This Week At A Glance

Monday		Annual committee reports due
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Advent meal at Our Savior's
	7:00 pm	Advent worship at Our Savior's
	7:30 pm	God Squad Christmas at Our Savior's
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Our Savior's
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Faith
	10:30 am	Worship service at Faith

Those to keep in prayer: the family of Margaret “Rusty” Porth, Mallory Boussetot, Roger and Betty Boussetot, Cathy Goddard, Jade Jensen, Larry Schau, Diane Sievers, Margaret Travaille ; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Peterson, Vera St. John, Betty Schau and Bus Seastrand; and those serving in the military.

During the month of December, **winter coats, hats and gloves** will be collected for the Carroll Assistance Center.

The **noisy offering** will be collected today, Sunday, December 15th. The 2024 recipient is Calamus Wheatland Schools.

Mid-week Advent service will be held Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. The confirmands will assist with the service. A meal will be offered at 6:15 pm. Our Savior’s will host on December 18th.

The **God Squad Christmas party** will be Wednesday, December 18th at Our Savior’s following worship. Junior high and high school youth are invited to join in the holiday fun!

All reports for **Faith** and **Our Savior’s Annual Reports** are due in the church office by **Monday, December 16th**. These reports include: Pastor, Council Presidents, God Squad, Feeding the Children, Memorials and Gifts, Our Savior’s Cemetery, and all Committees (Education, Outreach, Property and Management, and Worship). Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports are due in the church office by Monday, January 13, 2025.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Our Savior’s at 9:00 pm.

Christmas Day Worship at Faith at 9:00 am

Sunday, December 29th there will be **one** service at Our Savior’s at 9:00 am. There will be no Sunday School that morning.

JOHN'S SUMMONS TO REPENTANCE

Luke 3:7-18 To the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, John used to say, "You spawn of vipers, who put it into your heads to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruits to match repentance. Do not begin to say among yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." The crowds asked him, "What are we to do?" He answered them, "Let him who has two robes give one to one who has none and let him who has food do likewise." The tax-collectors came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what are we to do?" He said to them, "Exact no more beyond what your instructions lay down." The soldiers, too, asked him, "What are we to do?" He said to them, "Treat no man with violence and do not play the false informer and be content with your pay."

When the people were in a state of expectancy and when they were all wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he could be the Anointed One, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but the One who is stronger than I is coming, the latchet of whose sandals I am not worthy to unloose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to cleanse his threshing floor and he will gather the corn into his store but he will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Here we have the message of John to the people. Nowhere does the difference between John and Jesus stand out so clearly because, whatever the message of John was, it was not a gospel. It was not good news; it was news of terror.

John had lived in the desert. The face of the desert was covered with stubble and brushwood, as dry as tinder. Sometimes a spark set the face of the desert alight and out from their crannies came the vipers, scurrying in terror from the menacing flames. It was to them John likened the people who came to be baptized.

The Jews had not the slightest doubt that in God's economy there was a favoured nation clause. They held that God would judge other nations with one standard but the Jews with another. They, in fact, held that a man was safe from judgment simply in virtue of the fact that he was a Jew. A son of Abraham was exempt from judgment. John told them that racial privilege meant nothing; that life, not lineage, was God's standard of judgment.

There are three outstanding things about John's message.

(i) It began by demanding that men should share with one another. It was a social gospel which laid it down that God will never absolve the man who is content to have too much while others have too little.

(ii) It ordered a man, not to leave his job, but to work out his own salvation by doing that job as it should be done. Let the tax-collector be a good tax-collector; let the soldier be a good soldier. It was a man's duty to serve God where God had set him.

A negro spiritual says:

*There's a king and captain high,
And he's coming by and by,
And he'll find me hoeing cotton when he comes,
You can hear his legions charging in the regions of the sky,
And he'll find me hoeing cotton when he comes.
There's a man they thrust aside,
Who was tortured till he died,
And he'll find me hoeing cotton when he comes.
He was hated and rejected,
He was scorned and crucified,
And he'll find me hoeing cotton when he comes.
When he comes! when he comes!
He'll be crowned by saints and angels when he comes,
They'll be shouting out Hosanna! to the man that men denied,
And I'll kneel among my cotton when he comes.*

It was John's conviction that nowhere can a man serve God better than in his day's work.

(iii) John was quite sure that he himself was only the forerunner. The King was still to come and with him would come judgment. The winnowing fan was a great flat wooden shovel; with it the grain was tossed into the air; the heavy grain fell to the ground and the chaff was blown away. And just as the chaff was separated from the grain so the King would separate the good and bad.

So John painted a picture of judgment, but it was a judgment which a man could meet with confidence if he had discharged his duty to his neighbour and if he had faithfully done his day's work.

John was one of the world's supremely effective preachers. Once Chalmers was congratulated on a sermon. "Yes," he said, "but what did it do?" It is clear that John preached for action and produced it. He did not deal in theological subtleties but in life.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain