

December 15th, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

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Huxley, IA 50124

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Third Sunday of Advent
The Word Made Flesh: Rock of Ages
Sunday, December 15, 2024

In this third service in The Word Made Flesh series for Advent, we give thanks that Jesus is our rock, a solid foundation on which to build a life of joy.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds
ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Greeting

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds,
and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Week Three: Receiving

Introduction

- We often miss the presence of God because we look for the wrong things. Whether hoping for easy miracles or wearing ourselves out working for transformation in a broken world, we may miss the signs that God is coming and has, indeed, already come. We might think our encounter with God must come as a profound emotional experience, and we spend our energy seeking such an experience more than we seek God's own self.
- To prepare ourselves to receive the Savior—and the disruption the Savior's coming brings—we lay down our own agendas and expectations and learn to open ourselves to what God brings rather than focusing on what we want

or expect. God's coming into the world never fulfills human expectation; it fulfills God's expectation.

Galatians 4:4-7 - ⁴*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

Opening Prayer

Generous God, you provide all that we need. We thank you that you do not give us what we want, but what you, in your wisdom, desire for us. Open us to the miracles surrounding us every moment, and teach us to expect your coming throughout each day. Pour out upon us your overflowing mercy, justice, and peace. Teach us to trust your abundance so thoroughly that we share all that we have received from you, for the healing of the world and the proclamation of your name. In the name of the Holy One who was, is, and is to come.

Amen.

Light Candle Three – Candle of Receiving

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

verse 3 ELW 257

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite; Music: French processional, 15th cent.; Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

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

*Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, you have called us to be your holy people, built on Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Yet, we often seek to live according to our own sinful desires instead of following your holy will. We try to build our lives on the weak and crumbling foundations of earthly values and possessions. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Strengthen us to live as your holy people, built on Jesus our Cornerstone.

God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, Jesus, our Savior, to be born among us. Jesus was the stone the builders rejected. Innocent of all sin, he bore our sins in his body on the cross. Our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus, help us each day to build our lives on you, our Rock, our Foundation and our Cornerstone.

*GATHERING SONG

“He Came Down”

ELW 253

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949; Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, holy Child of Bethlehem, you are our Rock and our Foundation. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to build our lives on you and on your Word. By your humble birth in Bethlehem, your sinless life and your suffering, death and resurrection you overcame our enemies—sin, death and the devil. When the storms and temptations of this life threaten to overwhelm us, help us to remain firm in faith, knowing that you, our Cornerstone, cannot be moved. Hear our prayer and accept our praise. Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
**for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has
become my salvation.**

³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on
God's name;
**make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.**

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Isaiah 51: 1-3

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151



GOSPEL: Matthew 7:24-26

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays out the choice to be made by those who hear and follow him.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that

house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children will leave to go to Children’s Church

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1st & 2nd grade – Upstairs to the left

3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades - Downstairs

HYMN OF THE MONTH:

“Emmanuel”

W&P 36

AUTHORS Bob McGee; **CCLI SONG #12949**; **COPYRIGHTS** 1976 C.A. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

C C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
 Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ G/B C
 his name is called Em - man - u - el;

C/E F G G⁷ C C/B \flat
 God with us, re - vealed in us;

A A/C \sharp Dm G⁷ F/C C
 his name is called Em - man - u - el.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 596

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868; public domain.



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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 INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

Response: Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

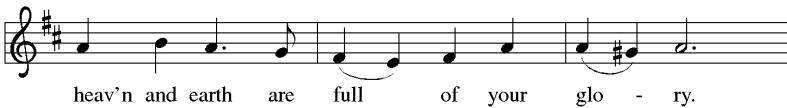
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Page 153



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

(Page 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908; public domain.



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in!
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW 290

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual; public domain.

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

***Benediction**

Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."

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

Amen.

*** SENDING SONG "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW 251**

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat; Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress; Outside the USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal* © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Children are dismissed to go downstairs for:



CHILDREN'S MUSIC WITH NELS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Jan Rumbaugh

Acolytes: Emmalyn Kruse, Rex Clark

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Today, December 15th, 2024 *Third Sunday of Advent*

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Music with Nels

Rock mission trip meeting conference room

Christmas Program rehearsal until 12:15

4:30 p.m. KICK Christmas program with meal to follow (free-will donation)

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study (*Pastor*)

1:00 p.m. Cedars Worship (*Pastor*)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Quilters

2:00 p.m. North Polk Ministerial Mtg (*Pastor*)

7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas @ Palestine

Thursday, December 19th, 2024

11:00 a.m. Ballard Ministerial Mtg (*Pastor*)

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

Lectionary texts: Micah 5:2-5; Hebrews 10:5-10; Matthew 5:14-16

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Sunday, December 8, 2024:

General: \$5,694.00

Fellowship: \$7.00

Attendance: 152

Benevolence: \$46.00

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support.



**Join us Tuesday, December 24th
for worship:**

**4 p.m. & 7 p.m. with
Holy Communion
(4 p.m. is livestreamed)**



K.I.C.K. UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Program Rehearsal:

Sunday, December 15th after worship until
12:15

Sunday, December 15th: Christmas Program

4:30 p.m. Special music

5:00 p.m. Program

Meal to follow – *free-will offering*

*All program participants are asked to bring one dozen cookies
or treats to share for the meal.*

You are invited to our Blue Christmas at Palestine
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

A promotional poster for a Blue Christmas worship service. The background is a soft-focus image of a blue Christmas ornament with white snowflake patterns. Text is overlaid in white and yellow boxes. A small inset image shows hands holding a lit candle, and another shows a lantern in a snowy landscape.

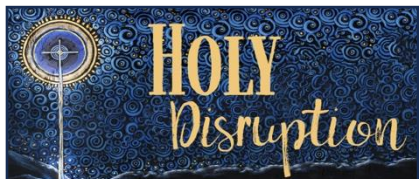
Blue Christmas Worship
Prayer of Lament & Hope

Special Candle lighting Service for those
Struggling with Grief & Loss this Season

Wednesday, December 18th @ 7:00pm
Palestine Lutheran Church



Tracy Blackmer is currently in Zambia teaching local farmers ways to improve their maize (corn) yields and start community gardens so they can reduce hunger and malnutrition in their villages. His goal is to help them set up a more sustainable system to feed themselves thereby reducing the need for emergency handouts of food to prevent starvation. His work is through Zambia Iowa Ag Partnership which has a facebook page and a website ziap.org. You can follow his progress on the website by clicking on the 3 lines in the upper right corner of the homepage and selecting "blog."



Advent Wreath Blessing - Holy

Disruption – Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and

we also await Christ’s coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by “getting ready”: planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ’s arrival disrupts—disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

This candle blessing is built around four steps to help us recognize our resistance to God’s inbreaking and prepare for God’s holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week’s liturgy will focus on one step. Although worshipers can benefit from each service individually, each step builds upon the ones preceding. Together they form a spiritual discipline that reminds us that discipleship is always a process requiring intentional practice. Advent, the first season of the church year, reminds us to return to our sense of longing for and expectation of God’s coming into our world. In this worship series we pay attention to opening ourselves to the holy disruption of God’s inbreaking promise.





Special Advent Offering: Each Sunday of Advent you are invited to contribute to our special advent offering. Please designate on your offering if you wish for it to be towards the special offering.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024
Addressing local food insecurity over the Holidays

The Huxley “Cupboard” Food Pantry

Donations of food items, or financial are welcome and can be made to the **Palestine Lutheran Church (designate Huxley Food Pantry)** or dropped off in the North Hall.

Food Needs: *Canned fruit, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, Canned meat, Spaghetti sauce, Chunk soups, Helper Meals, Jelly, Peanut butter, Juice (fruit & veggie), Kraft Mac n Cheese, Mashed potatoes, Knorr sides, Deodorant, Shampoo/body wash, General cleaners, Toilet paper, Detergent pacs/pods*

Donated items may be dropped off during regular hours or dropped in the North Hall at Palestine Lutheran Church.



Poinsettias for our worship were given to the Glory of God and *in Honor of or in Memory of a Loved One (as noted) by:*

Sandra Kalsem, Sharon Davis, David and Margret Anderson
In loving memory of Helen and Irvin Anderson
In loving memory of Alice and Byron Anderson
In loving memory of Ralph Kalsem
In loving memory of Gary Davis

Mary, Chris, Sariah, Cayden, and Callie Brendeland
In memory of Charlie Brendeland

Merle Brendeland, Janis Brendeland, Megan Russell and Families
In loving memory of Omar and Valerie Brendeland
In loving memory of Marla Simmons

David and Vallery Eisenmann
In loving memory of Dan and Clara Eisenmann

Denise Elliott and families
In loving memory of:
Lowell Elliott, Elman and Harriett Sheldahl

Nancy Fausch, Craig, Jeannie, Julie, Melanie and Families
In loving memory of LaVerne Fausch

Bruce and Angie and Sarah Hartman, Emma and Riley Peterson,
and Marlys Hartman
In loving memory of Earl Hartman

Dolores Hauge and Family
In loving memory of Orville Hauge

Dick and Helen Kepler

Eric and Teri Klimpel
In loving memory of Donald Klimpel
In honor of Marlene Klimpel
In honor of Dick & Penny Brown



Leona Larson, Jim and Arlene Bates, Leonard and Sue Larson and
Families
In memory of Noel Larson

Virgil Larson and Families
In loving memory of Diane Larson

Roger and Deb Moore

Richard and Christine Nelson

*In loving memory of Dena & Tom Bloodsworth
In loving memory of Thelma & Lawrence Nelson*

Andrew and Christine Polich

In loving memory of Ryan Polich

Deidre Qual

*In loving memory of Lorraine & Otis Qual
In loving memory of Laura & Keith Lyon
In loving memory of Merlin Lyon*

Henry & Jan Rumbaugh

In loving memory of their parents

David and Jean Saveraid

*In loving memory of Thomas Bacher
In loving memory of Doris Keeton
In loving memory of Kenneth and Shirley Saveraid*

Tracy, Cindi, Rick and Families

In loving memory of Arlin and Marge Sheldahl

Tracy Sheldahl

*In loving memory of grandparents:
Gordon and Agnes Rullestad
Osmund and Christine Sheldahl*



Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Together Rooted in Christ (*based on Luke 3*)

The church's preachers and teachers often distinguish between John's baptism and our own baptism into Christ. But perhaps we have sometimes gone too far in supposing they are all that different. Both begin with repentance. Both orient us toward the good news that God forgives our sins and claims us as beloved children. Both call us to "grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God" (*ELW*, p. 227.)

The grace and love of God lavished on us in baptism are not the result of simple mechanics whereby we receive forgiveness because we've pressed the right buttons on the salvation machine. Instead, we live into God's forgiveness in deeply transformative and organic ways, like trees bearing good fruit. That John's baptism is, at its heart, about genuine transformation and living in a new way shaped by God's grace is apparent from the questions people ask him. Called to bear fruits worthy of repentance, they want to know: "What then should we do?" (Luke 3:10).

Advent offers us a wonderful chance to renew the gift of baptism by asking ourselves important questions about our direction in life and our relationships with others. How are you nurturing your prayer and worship life? What are you learning about your relationship with God? How are you growing in faith? How are you caring for others and the world God made? What help or support might you need on your spiritual journey that you're not currently receiving?

John turned people's hearts to God by reorienting them to their community. He encouraged them to share life together by uplifting one another, performing mutual acts of kindness, and nurturing a spirit of thanksgiving. In this season full of expectation, we look to Jesus' coming among us at the same time as we remember that we ourselves have been reborn children of God. In baptism, we have been welcomed into a community of care and support, together rooted in Christ, bearing good fruit, and proclaiming God's good news to all the world.