

# Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 11, 2016



## Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

**HYMN** "Arise, O Christian People" ..... LSB 354

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION**

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.*

*P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

*P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.*

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.*

**C: Amen.**

## **INTROIT**

*Ps. 71:14–18; antiphon: Phil. 4:4*

*P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.*

**C: I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.**

*P: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.*

**C: O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

*P: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.*

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.*

## **SALUTATION and COLLECT**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

***Isaiah 35:1-10***

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground

springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE READING**

**James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

*P: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.)*

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 11:2-15**

<sup>2</sup> Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the

dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.” <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is he of whom it is written, “ ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’ <sup>11</sup> Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup> and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** *Explanation of the Second Article*

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**HYMN** “When All the World Was Cursed”..... *LSB 346*

**CHILDREN’S PRESENTATION: “God’s Gift to Us”**

**MESSAGE**

**WE WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

## **PRAYER**

### **THE 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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.*

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" ..... *LSB 388*

#### **Acknowledgments**

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## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

### **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Isaiah 7:10–17

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

### **THIS WEEK— (December 11th –18th)**

**Sunday:** Worship/HC/Children's Service, 9:00am;  
Christian Ed, 10:30am

**Tuesday:** Home Bible Study, 10:00am; **JANUARY 2017 CALENDAR  
EVENTS DUE**

**Wednesday:** Bible Study, 8:30am;  
Confirmation Class 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 5:00pm;  
Confirmation Class 1<sup>st</sup> year, 6:00pm; CLAY Meeting, 6:00pm

**Thursday:** Worship/HC/Advent, 6:30pm; Bible Class, 7:30pm

**Sunday:** Worship/HC, 9:00am; Christian Ed, 10:30am

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending 12/04/16)**

General Fund: \$6489.49; Building Fund: \$310.00;

Seasonal: \$772.00; Blessings: \$52.52; CLAY Trip: \$100.00;

Memorial: \$175.00; Hmong Outreach: \$60.00;

Evening of Music, \$292.00; Miscellaneous: \$20.00

Total Attendance: 184 (Midweek: 64; Sunday: 120)

## **CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GUESTS AND VISITORS:** We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** Advent series will be on the following Thursdays at 6:30pm: 12/15 and 12/22.

**VOLUNTEER GREETERS NEEDED for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.** If you are available to greet for one of the Christmas services, please call Linda Benda at 715-359-5396 or the church office at 715-848-2040. Thank you.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN GIVING TREE** through The Women's Community, to help provide Christmas gifts for people who are in need.

**THANK YOU TO ALL who attended** the CLC Christmas Party!

**THANK YOU TO the Ladies Guild** for hosting this wonderful event! Everyone enjoyed the evening!

**FOOD FOR THE BODY** from October/November went to Neighbors Place. Thank you to all who donated.

**INGATHERING FOR THE WARMING CENTER:** sweatshirts and socks, and breakfast items were delivered. Thank you for your donations. (Jack and Pat Mathie's granddaughter works there).

**HUMAN CARE FOR DECEMBER:** The items needed include: instant oatmeal packets, soft breakfast bars, fruit & applesauce cups, peanut butter & jelly, powdered creamer/sugar. Thank you for donating to the Wausau Community Warming Center!

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN CAROLING** on Saturday, December 10th. The recipients of the caroling for sure enjoyed it. Also, our carolers enjoyed caroling to and with them.

**“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life**

“Mary and Joseph’s hardships serve as a vivid reminder that as God’s children, we don’t always have it easy either. But because Mary and Joseph followed God’s will, countless generations benefit from the presence of this child’s life in the world. Let’s put that in the context of modern life—a young couple facing an unexpected pregnancy. If they follow God’s will, abortion will be averted, and countless generations will benefit, albeit in a much smaller way, from their child’s presence in the world.” — *Bradley Mattes, Executive Director of Life Issues Institute* ([www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org))