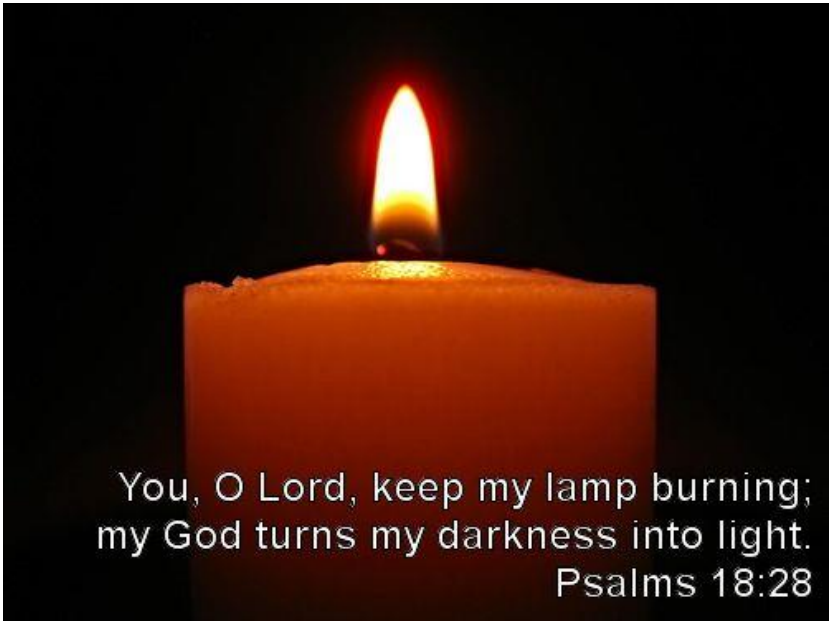


Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2019



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 15, 2019

HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" LSB 379

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P: Upon your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

P: For the word of the Lord is upright,

C: and all His work is done in faithfulness.

P: Our soul waits for the Lord;

C: He is our help and our shield.

P: For our heart is glad in Him,

C: because we trust in His holy name.

P: let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,

C: even as we hope in You. 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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: 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 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA and VERSE

C: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:12

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come".....LSB 358 vs. 1-5

SERMON

OFFERING

(Children enter and sit in assigned seats as lights are lowered.)

PART 1 – Darkness

Children: Darkness, darkness; all around us. Darkness inside us; dark outside us. Darkness, darkness; all around us.

Speaker 1: Why is it so dark? Its so gloomy. My sin made it this way. Yesterday I fought with my sister.

Speaker 2: My sin, too, made it this way. Today I lied to my parents.

Cong: We all made it this way, because sin lives in us and we are sinners.

Children: Darkness, darkness; all around us. Darkness inside us; dark outside us. Darkness, darkness; all around us.

Pastor: Ever since the darkness of sin entered into the hearts of Adam and Eve, all hearts are sinful and keep the world in darkness.

Speaker 3: All hearts? I always thought my parents were perfect. I thought me and my friends were perfect.

Pastor: No; there is not a righteous person on earth who does not sin. For Scripture says: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23).

Speaker 1: I don't like the darkness. Can we make it light again?

Pastor: No; we can't do anything about the darkness.

Children: Darkness, darkness; all around us. Darkness inside us; dark outside us. Darkness, darkness; all around us.

PART 2 – The Promise of Light

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem".....LSB 361

(First candle is lit, by acolyte)

Children: Light has sliced the darkness around us. Fright has left us; hope unites us. Who produced this light for us?

Pastor: Did God do this?

Speaker 4: Yes He did! As God loved Adam and Eve, so He loves us! Sin brings darkness to our souls.

Speaker 5: God gave a promise to Adam and Eve and to us.

Pastor: God promised that a descendant of theirs would crush the dark head of Satan; for God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Through Isaiah the prophet, God foretold, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2).

Speaker 6: That Light would be the Hope of the world!

Cong: Even for me? For us? Even though our sins caused the darkness?

Pastor: Yes, for us. God loves us all and sent His Son to save us.

Children: Light has sliced the darkness around us. Fright has left us; hope unites us. God produced this light for us?

PART 3 – Light Comes to earth

(Second candle is lit, by acolyte)

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **LSB 357**

Verse 1: Children sing

Verses 4,5,6: Everyone sings

Speaker 7: The Light has come! The Light has come!

Children: See the candle burning bright, God sent His Son tonight. The dark is gone; the earth is bright. For Jesus Christ is born tonight! His love for us put sin to flight—Jesus is our eternal light. The heavens rejoice, the angels sing: "This tiny child is the Lord and King!"

Pastor: Children, most of you were born in hospitals, where doctors and nurses could help care for you and keep you safe. When you came home, you had a warm bed and a soft pillow for your head. What can you tell us about Jesus' birth?

Speaker 8: Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Speaker 9: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child

Speaker 10: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born son.

Speaker 11: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was not room for them in the inn (Luke 2:4-7)

Cong: What else can you tell us about this little baby?

Speaking Part: He is God!

Children: His love for us put sin to flight—Jesus is our eternal light.

The heavens rejoice, the angels sing: “This tiny child is the Lord and King!”

HYMN “Away In a Manger” *LSB 364*

PART 4 – Light Spreads across the Earth

Children: Darkness flees the spreading Light: Heavenly might has put sin to flight. “We are forgiven!” We proclaim! The Son of God was set apart- forgiving love and peace to give, eternal hope into my heart!

Speaker 12: I’m glad God’s Light is here. I was frightened in the darkness. We truly have so much to be thankful for. God certainly loves us and glad to know about the birth of Jesus.

Pastor: I’m glad you are glad. But what about others? Would they also be happy to hear about Jesus the Light?

Cong: Oh, yes! We want to be like the Christmas shepherds!

Speaker13: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

Cong: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Pastor: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Cong: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Pastor: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Lets go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Cong: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:8-18).

Pastor: Because Jesus is the light of the world, we want everyone to have His light shining in their hearts through faith.

Children: There is no need to fear the sight. Of sin which fled from God tonight, for in our hearts, it is now bright! We are children of the Light! Thanks be to God!

HYMN "Go Tell It on the Mountain" **LSB 388**
(*Congregation sings all verses and children sing the refrain*)

VERSICLES

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C: Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Make His paths straight.

P: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

PRAYERS AND LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Silent Night" **LSB 363**

THIS WEEK AT CLC — (12/15/19 – 12/22/19)

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

Wednesday: Bible Study, 8:30am; 1st year Confirmation Class,
5:30pm

Thursday: Advent Worship/HC, 6:30pm

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

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending December 8, 2019)

General & Building Funds: \$18,549.56; Blessings: \$61.04; Memorial
Fund: \$10,000

Attendance: Thursday: 55; Sunday: 130

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship following the service. Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

THE GIVING TREE this year will provide gifts to relatives of the Beidle family who lost everything in a recent fire. You can find the tags with gift suggestions on the small tree in the narthex. Please wrap your gifts and drop them off at church as soon as possible. (We'd like to deliver them in time for Christmas.) If the item is for an individual, please make sure that the person's name is on the package. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

LUTHERAN WITNESS subscriptions are due today. The cost of the annual subscription (11 issues) will be \$22.56. If you are interested in receiving a subscription for 2020, please contact the Church Secretary with your name and mailing address.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS FOR CHURCH SERVICES / ACTIVITIES:

Please check the Channel 7 or Channel 9 websites, the CLC website or Facebook page, or call the church at 715-848-2040 and press option "6".

"LIFE QUOTES" from Lutherans For Life

"I would suggest that each of us, when we begin our Christmas preparations next year, spend a bit of time remembering those whose festival is not tinsel and toys, presents and packages. Let us ask the Lord to preserve the Savior's followers who are hated and persecuted because our Lord of life is hated." *Pastor Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour" –*
(www.lutheransforlife.org)