Welcome to Worship - Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
PRELUDE

Colleen Harris & Marilyn Paterno

WELCOME

Pastor Jeffrey

GATHERING

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

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW# 239 “Hark, the Glad Sound!”
Greeting
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
Glory to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High. Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.
Let us pray.
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

(The assembly may be seated.)

WORD

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

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;
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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Litany for the 3rd week in Advent

The coming of our Lord is near, Something new is around the corner,

With abundant Joy

We await the promise of your coming.

The coming of our Lord is near, Something new is appearing,

A child, a saviour, God’s much beloved son,

We await a Joy that creates all things new.

The coming of our Lord is near, Something new is being birthed,

A new heaven, a new world, a new community.

The coming of our Lord is near, We wait in joyful expectation for what is emerging,

Love comes down at Christmas,

And we await your coming.

Pause while the first three candles are lit.

The coming of our Lord is near
and we await the promise of your coming,
Light of the world draw close,
Shine on us with your guiding presence,
Shine in us with your truth and forgiveness,
Shine through us with your mercy and love.

Hymn: ELW# 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, vs 3
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ransomed captive
Is-ra-el, that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Em-man-u-el shall come to you, O Is-ra-el.

2 O come, O Wis-dom from on high, embracing all things
far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay;
Re-joice! Re-joice!

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law
and give them victory over the grave.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s
tyranny; from depths of hell your people save,
Teach us your will and guide our way.

5 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. Refrain

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. Refrain

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Text: Psalterium Caesareum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
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Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)
The presiding minister processes to the center aisle as the acclamation is sung.

Gospel Acclamation


The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the
root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly may be seated.)

Sermon – Pastor Jeffrey Schulz

(Please stand as you are able.)

Hymn of the Day: ELW# 242 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Em-
3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when
4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though

angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for
man-eul comes singing, his humble song is
all the world is despairing, as morning light so
dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall

soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts to
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving-
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless

getter, he opens wide the heav'nly door and
kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to
wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and
story, may God fill every day we share and

lives now inside us forever,
shatter all hatred and blindness,
weapons be broken a sufferer,
bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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NICENE CREED

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.
THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION prayers of the people

Karla Rasche leads this; Pastor Jeffrey leads the final prayer.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (especially). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember those who need your healing, love, and compassion especially Evie, Roger, Randy, Richard, Dennis, Melba, Margery, James, and Michael. We also remember those who have been called back to our heavenly home, especially Rhoda, and Regi.
We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (especially). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God. 
Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. 
Amen.

Amen.

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Please greet one another with signs of peace while remaining at a safe distance.
(The assembly is seated.)

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

While the people sing, the table is set for Holy Communion, and the offering is brought forward.
Offering Hymn: “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful” ELW 184

Offering Prayer

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

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

(The assembly may be seated.)
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Lamb of God

The assembly forms two lines and comes to the altar to receive and partake of communion. You will receive the bread from the pastor and wine/juice from an assisting minister and return by the side aisles. Baskets for empty glasses are on the front side aisles as you return to your pews.
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

*Please partake of the communion elements as the pastor says,*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*
*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

Post Communion Blessing *(Pastor Jeffrey)*

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

*As the post communion hymn is sung, ushers will pass baskets to collect packaging from communion.*

Post Communion Hymn ELW # 207 “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”
Post Communion Prayer

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.

BLESSING: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony
with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please be seated.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Sending Hymn – ELW # 248” People Look East”
People, Look East

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning
   of the year. Make your house fair as you are able,
   trim the hearth and set the table. People, look
   east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
   planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
   that in course the flower may flourish. People, look
   east, and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
   bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather,
   bright as sun and moon together. People, look
   east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new
   of the earth. Set every peak and valley humming
   with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look
   east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship Leaders:
Presiding Minister: Rev. Jeffrey Schulz
Assisting Minister: Karla Rasche
Readers: Ron Archer, Deb Smith
Ushers: June Daehler & George Bucala
Greeter: Pam Juengling
Acolyte: Cheryl Mattocks & Cheryl Smith
Organist: Colleen Harris
Litany Author: Shawn Adams

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