

Worship Leader Edition
First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“A Voice Cries Out, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord’”
St. Luke’s Choir

Lloyd Larson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

Screen

L: Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Please take a moment of silent confession.

L: Gracious God...

C: Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

C: Amen.

+OPENING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244/Screen

Verse 1

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

Verse 2

The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth, as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

Verse 3

The saints, who here in patience
their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

Verse 4

Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

+GREETING {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

L: 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.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

L: God of deliverance, You rescued Daniel from the mouths of the lions when he was punished for worshiping you. Liberate all who are endangered for the sake of their faith, and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshiping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

C: Amen.

(After Prayer of the Day, please say, “Please be seated”)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *{Lectern}* (Danielle Garbina)

Screen

L: **Reading from John 8:12 – Jesus the Light of the World**

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

CANDLE LIGHTING (first candle is lit) *{Lectern}* (Danielle Garbina)

L: **Let us pray**, Lord thank you for the gift of Jesus, the light of the world. You sent him to save us from darkness. During this Advent season let His light shine in and through us so others may see your good works for your glory

C: **Amen**

SONG:

“Christ Be Our Light
Verse 1

ELW #715/Screen

Verse 1

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

FIRST READING *{Lectern}* (Bette Gamboni)

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

ELW pg. 124/Screen

C: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Please stand as you are able.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL (Rob)

Luke 1:1-25

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent

to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

+HYMN OF THE DAY

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ELW #250/Screen

Verse 1

Blessed be the God of Israel
Who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

Verse 3

My child, as prophet of the Lord
You will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Verse 2

With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;

+THE APOSTLES' CREED {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

Screen

C: 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.

+THE PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

After each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Becky Olson*)

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: For all who are gathered, let us take a moment to welcome one another. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat.

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/DIALOGUE AND PREFACE (*Rob*)

ELW pg. 129/*Screen*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

L: 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 (*brief intro*)

ELW pg. 130/*Screen*

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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 (*Rob*)

+THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Rob*)

Screen

C: 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION/ALL ARE WELCOME

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW pg. 135/*Screen*

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE (*On Screen*)

Screen

L: During this time of reflection and response please fill out your welcome card with any prayer request and use this time to prepare your offering. Enjoy this time.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Philip M. Young

Lori Murray

+POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (*Rob*)

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

C: Amen

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

L: We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use our gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C: Amen.

SENDING

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (*Rob*)

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW #288/Screen

Verse 1

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Verse 2

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!

+DISMISSAL *{Back}* (Rob)

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

He has opened heaven's door,
And we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Verse 3

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

*Altar Flowers Today Given by
Merlin and Carol Larson
In honor of our grandchildren
and great grandchildren*