

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 6:30 PM

REV. MATTHEW CLARK

Senior Pastor

REV. MATTHEW KOBS

Assistant Pastor

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Director of Music

PAMELA FOX

Office Manager

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Nepali Evangelist

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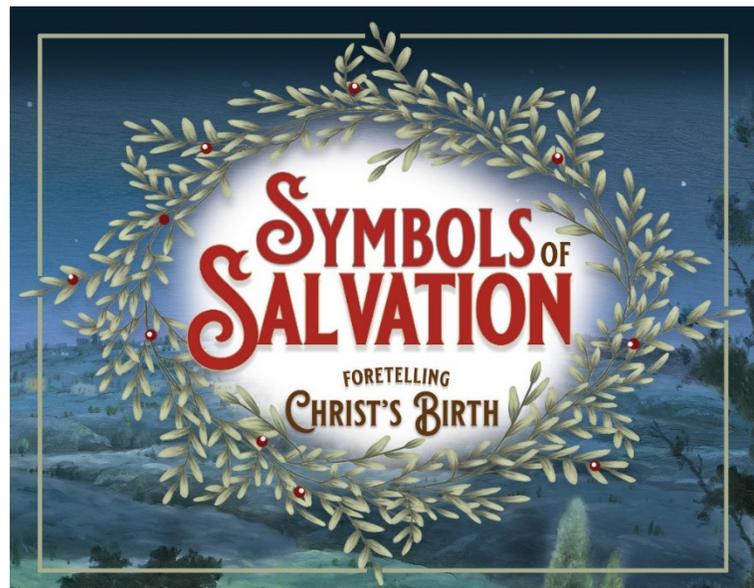
Maintenance Technician

BARBARA HARTUNG

Parish Nurse

CLAUDIA SEIFERT

Parish Librarian



LOVED BY CHRIST
SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Word of Life Lutheran School

WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES

5:00 pm Saturday Worship

8:15 am Sunday Worship

9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3 a

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021 6:30PM

AS WE GATHER

A tradition carried out in some places during the weeks before Christmas is the “Secret Santa,” in which a person leaves little gifts or notes of greeting and encouragement for someone else in a mysterious way. The “Secret Santa” does not reveal his or her identity until Christmas has come. The person who received the gifts may find that the giver was someone totally unexpected, even unlikely. In the season of Advent, we find ourselves awaiting God’s unlikely Messiah. He comes to earth not in power or splendor but in humility and simplicity. God’s plan of salvation is unexpected and unlikely and amazing. With eager hearts, we anticipate the arrival of our humble Lord and rejoice in the wonder of His coming.

PRELUDE IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

ASCENSION BELL CHOIR

OPENING HYMN: LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

LSB 339

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness and confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, asking for His merciful forgiveness.

C God Almighty, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son, our Emmanuel, to die for us, and for His sake, forgives us all our sins. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord, Jesus.

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN OF LIGHT: O LIGHT WHOSE SPLENDOR THRILLS AND GLADDENS LSB 891

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,
With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,
O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You came to earth in lowliness of heart to seek and save the lost. In this season of repentance and prayer, make us ready to prepare Your way with sincere devotion that reflects Your humble service. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us a sense of peace and renewed dedication to live as faithful and courageous people, so that we welcome You with joyful hearts and hope-filled lives. This we ask in Your wonderful name.

C **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalm 141, (sung)*

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers.

But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.

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.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

‡ **WORD** ‡

FIRST READING *Judges 6:11–24 (7:2–9)*

P A reading from Judges, the sixth (and seventh) chapter(s).

¹¹Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³And Gideon said to Him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵And he said to Him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷And he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your eyes, then show me a sign that it is You who speaks with me.” ¹⁸Please do not depart from here until I come to You and bring out my present and set it before You.” And He said, “I will stay till you return.”

¹⁹So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to Him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. ²¹Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²²Then Gideon perceived that He was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” ²³But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. . . .

²The LORD said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ ³Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

⁴And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.” ⁵So

he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." ⁶And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ⁸So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:68–75*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for He has visited and redeemed His people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,
⁷⁰as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember His holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve Him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

At the conclusion of the readings, the following is said:

P In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.**

MAGNIFICAT: MY SOUL REJOICES *Mary's Song*

LSB 933

My soul rejoices,
My spirit voices—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior
has shown me favor—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing,
join in confessing
God, who is solely
mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His mercy surely
shall rest securely
on all who fear Him,
love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His arm now baring,
His strength declaring—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters,
their rule He shatters—
sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted;
the meek exalted.
Full are the hungry;
empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token
all that was spoken
to Abraham's offspring
God is fulfilling—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

(Please Stand)

LITANY

The Litany may be said, or it may be sung according to the musical form found in Hymnal Supplement 98. The congregation's response should begin as the petition sung by the leader ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both.

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For (*names*), our *pastor/pastors* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for meditation.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C **To You, O Lord.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

(Please Be Seated)

SERMON HYMN: THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

LSB 331

SERMON Seminarian Joel Herr

PRAYER

P Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give to us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

ANTHEM DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

ASCENSION BELL CHOIR

(Please Stand)

BLESSING

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
C **and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.** *Isaiah 11:1*

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

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

LSB 332

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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