

BAY VIEW Welcome home!

LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA



December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM
Pastor Jeff Greathouse

PRELUDE: *I Will Lift Up Your Name*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on + Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Soon and Very Soon*

Verse 1

Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King

Chorus
Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King

Verse 2
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King
No more crying there
We are going to see the King

Verse 3
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you,

**Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that,
transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,

strengthen our hearts
as we await the Lord's coming in glory.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

Light three candles.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240) vs 3

- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it 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.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 *read responsively*

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

A reading from James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Halle halle hallelujah

Halle halle hallelujah

Halle halle hallelujah

Hallelujah hallelujah

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GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Jeff Greathouse

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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CREED

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.**

MUSIC FOR PRAYERS: *O Lord Hear My Prayer*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982, © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Remembering in our prayers: **Kevin** (Clark), **Sasha** (Hill), **Larry** (Uecker), **Chuck** (Dull), **Dan** (Knutson), **Vincent** (Michaud), **Gordy** (Haen), **Rich** (Meyer), **Mary** (Honold), **Dick** (Russell), **Stacey** (Greathouse), **Patrick** (Bentley), **Elizabeth** (Canning), **Sandi** (Witkowski), **Kay** (Lyndahl), **Dale** (Lyndahl), **Gail** (Haen), **Allison** (Bender), **Darrell** (Askins), **Kaye** (Knutson), **Mike** (Herbst), **Ann** (Kirch-Franklin), **James** (Carlson).

We also pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: **Charles** (LaViolette), **John** (Bartoszek), **Jim** (Buschmann), **Ann Marie** (Heinz), **Lucy** (Rogers), **Dianne & Merle** (Eskildsen).

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: *We Shall Prepare*

Refrain

We shall prepare our hearts for new love.
We shall prepare our eyes for the blinding light.
We shall prepare our faith to break the dark of night.
We shall prepare the way of the Lord!

1. A voice strong and clear cries out in the night:
"Make straight the way of our God."
The mountains bend low, the plains will rise up
to the glory, the glory of God!

2. There shall be one who is to come,
mightier than you or I.
We shall be changed, baptized with fire
of the spirit, the spirit of God!

3. Children of God, come change your hearts.
Come to the water of life.
Offer your hand, offer your heart
to the people, the people of God!

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OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

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:

SANCTUS: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (ELW 473)

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond **Amen.**

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *Bread of Life from Heaven*
(ELW 474)

Refrain

Bread of life from heaven,
your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup
until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. Refrain
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away;

set your hearts on the food that endures.
Come, learn the true and the living way,
that the fullness of life may be yours. Refrain

3 Love as the one who, in love for you,
gave himself for the life of the world.
Come to the one who is food for you,
that your hunger and thirst be no more. Refrain

4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;
make your home in the lifegiving Word.
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,
and believe in the truth you have heard. Refrain

5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,
praise the one in whom you are reborn. Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

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