

**December 16th, 2012**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Music led by Praise Team**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**  
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Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen  
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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.**

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, December 16, 2012/Third Sunday of Advent

## Holy Communion

### INTRODUCTION

*The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**        **"Prepare the Royal Highway"**                    **# 264 ELW**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SONG # 1:**                **"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**                    **# 270 ELW**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

**God, we have heard the voices of the prophets, but we do not listen to their message. We have seen the signs of your coming, but we are distracted by the glittery illusions of materialistic society. It is late and now we realize the foolishness of our selfishness. God, we need a Savior. In your mercy, we ask you to hear the prayers of our hearts, and forgive our sins. (A time of silent reflection.)**

*"A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord." Christ is come and Christ is coming again. The God of Advent has fulfilled the promises of the ages in Jesus Christ. In Christ, we are God's forgiven people. Praise God for the forgiveness of the Christmas Savior.*

### 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 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.**

**ANTHEM:               “O Come Little Children”**

**FIRST READING: Philippians 4:4–7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.*

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

**PSALM: Isaiah 12:2–6**

*Refrain: In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isa. 12:6)*

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

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? 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. 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

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

## **SERMON**

**OFFERTORY SONG: "We Three Kings"**

**# 646 WOV**

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with expectation and longing, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A time for silent prayer.*

For your church, that it might rejoice in the Lord always; for our full communion partners; for our companion synods around the globe; for congregations in our neighborhood. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the earth, that it be renewed with love; for old growth forests and polar ice caps; for lakes and rivers; and for the place we call home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all nations, that war and disaster cease; for countries recovering from famines or earthquakes; and for people whose human rights have been violated. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those whose hands or hearts have grown weak; for the outcast; for those weighed down with shame; for the dying and the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this gathering, for our congregational leaders, and for those who with their prayers sustain our common life, that with John the Baptist we might proclaim the good news to everyone we meet. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

We remember those who have died and now rejoice in your glory. Give us voices to sing your praise in every time and place. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of your people, O God, and in your mercy grant us all we need, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **APOSTLE'S 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 into hell. 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.**

## **WORD OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION SONG:                    "Silent Night"                    # 281 ELW**

### **COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

**Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**CLOSING SONG:                    "Joy to the World"                    # 267 ELW**

**THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

Music: Praise Team  
Greeters: Lloyd & Shirley Lilienthal  
Ushers: 8:30 Les Bolke, Bev Ferdelman, 10:00 Jerry & Carolyn Morris  
Lectors: 8:30 Lynn Hansen, 10:00 Evelyn Richter  
Coffee Servers: Lee & Barb Forrester, Chuck & Elsa Carlson,  
Ian Dzubay & Nicole Follner

**RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (12/9/12)**

Attendance: 8:30 – 97 10:00 – 62

Offering: \$ 2,144.26 Building Fund: \$ 340.00

**\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**

**\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

**THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> THRU DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2012**

Mon., Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	AA & Alanon
Tues., Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 a.m.	Bells
Wed., Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	WIC
	9:30 a.m.	Hardanger
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team
Thurs., Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 a.m.	R.O.M.E.O.S.
	1:00 p.m.	Funtimers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**AA & Alanon Potluck** for December 17<sup>th</sup> cancelled. Regular meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM–1 PM at the Wealthwood Rod & Gun Club. See Community Bulletin Board for details.

### **WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – One Service Only at 10:00 a.m. with Coffee Hour at 9:00 a.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Day Communion Service at 10:00 a.m.

followed by a potluck Christmas dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>** – One Service Only at 10:00 a.m. with Coffee Hour at 9:00 a.m.

**2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in the Fellowship Hall and are ready to be picked up. Thank you.

**A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL & PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** As you know the parsonage had some water damage to the basement. We have been working with the insurance companies to receive coverage for these damages. The process is going forward.

**OLD LOG THEATER – JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>.** Information & signup sheets are on the table in the Narthex. The bus will pick up at Bethesda at 9 AM.

Watch and/or listen as Eve Christensen sings with Luther College choir's Christmas performance of "Tidings of Comfort and Joy." The broadcasts will be on Minnesota Public Radio on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and on Twin Cities Public Television on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., December 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and December 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.