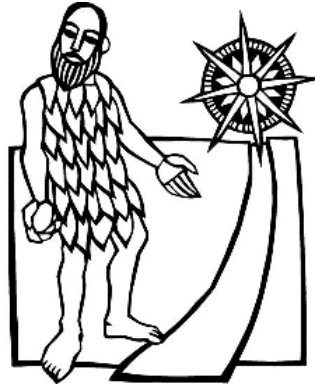


# Sunday, December 11, 2016

## Third Sunday of Advent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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### **Pastor: Rev. Terry Frovik**

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Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Prayer Chain Contacts Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Judy Forester 218-678-2667

Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service**

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

# Sunday, December 11, 2016

## Third Sunday of Advent

### INTRODUCTION

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**                      **“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**                      **#290 ELW**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING HYMN:**                      **“Away in the Manger”**                      **#277 ELW**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to  
seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✝ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new.

Rejoice in this good news!

**Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: “Mary Did You Know?”**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

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

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say 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.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then 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; <sup>7</sup>the 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.

<sup>8</sup>A 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.

<sup>9</sup>No 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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**

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

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

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

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

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

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

### **Second Reading: James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup>Be 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. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As 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**

*Please rise for the reading of the Gospel*

### **Gospel: Luke 21:5-19**

#### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and shall be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup>They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup>“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes,

and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

## **Praise to You, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

### **SERMON**

**“See How He Sees!”**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Silent Night”**

**#281 ELW**

### **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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church and all messengers of the gospel, for all who call upon the name of the Lord, and for congregations throughout the world; that God work through us to bring harmony and reconciliation, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For rain forests and deserts, for wilderness and developed land, and for plants blossoming and dormant; that the splendor and diversity of creation proclaim the glory of the Lord, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our government, for the military and international relief workers, and for those who care for the stranger, widow, and orphan; that God raise up leaders who work for the protection of all, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the hungry and homeless, for those in captivity, for the fearful and sorrowful, for those living with HIV/AIDS, and for the sick (*especially*); that those who help others serve with patience and grace, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who call this community home, for those visiting from near and far, and for those preparing for the holiday season, that the advent of Christ make our hearts and minds rejoice, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the departed who were faithful to God's word; that their words and actions direct us to the one who prepares a way for us, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.**

**Amen.**

**LORDS PRAYER - LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM**

## BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN:

**“Joy to the World”**

**#267 ELW**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team  
Greeters: Jerry & Carol Morris  
Ushers: Dave Lundahl & Dale Siems  
Lector: Sandy Pullen  
Hospitality Hosts: Del & Dianne Jones

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God’s Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, December 4, 2016: 9:00am 109

## THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

December 12 thru December 18, 2016

Monday	12/12	9:00 am	Women’s Devotion at Pat Becker’s
		1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/13		No Quilting
		10:00-12:00	Pastor Text Study
		5:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	12/14	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		4:30 pm	Transition Team Meeting
		6:00 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	12/15	8:00am	ROMEOS
		10:00 am	Put up Poinsettias
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
Friday	12/16	10:00 am	Bone Builders

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda                      December 12 thru December 18, 2016 (continued)**

Saturday	12/17	9:00 am	Cantata Practice
Sunday	12/18	9:00 am	Worship-Cantata

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** will be on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. There will only be one service that day.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Poinsettia Tree. 10:00am

**POINSETTIAS** Sign-up for Poinsettias plants in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the sign up sheet there on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Please help beautify our church for Christmas. The plants are \$15.00 each. Buy one in memory/honor of a loved one.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** – The tree is up in the Narthex ready for donations for Aitkin County youths, ages 0-18 years. Help trim the tree with hats, mittens, scarves, or any other unwrapped gifts that are age appropriate. Dead line for donations is December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**NEED CHRISTMAS GIFTS?** Bethesda Quilters and Jelly makers will display their products today, December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:00am service.

**WINTER WORSHIP HOURS** we will be having only one service at 9:00am on Sundays until March 2017.

**MARTIN LUTHER EXHIBIT** First Lutheran Church in Aitkin will be having a bus going to the Martin Luther Exhibit at the Minneapolis Art Institute on Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. They have 6 openings on the bus. Cost is \$34 and the bus leaves at 7:45am that day from the church in Aitkin. Call 218-927-2028 for more information or to make reservations.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING!** Each Christmas season we have shared a portion of the veggie stand dollars and local benevolence donations with local families or individuals in need. There will be a Christmas Caring and Sharing suggestion box in narthex. If you know of someone who could use food or gas cards please complete the suggestion form provided. There will also be information in the Fellowship Hall from the ELCA and Heifer International suggesting that we consider giving animals to poor countries as part of our families Christmas giving .

**LONGEST NIGHT – A BLUE CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER** service will be held on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00pm. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.