



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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The Third Sunday of Advent

11 AM, Sunday, December 13, 2020

Setting Three, LBW

WELCOME

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Stand/kneel

- ☐ Most merciful God,
- ☑ **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
- ☐ Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Amen.**

The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 35

Hark, the Glad Sound

CHESTERFIELD

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE

Cantor *Kyrie eleison* (three times)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

- ☐ We praise you, O God, with this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles of this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit that we will be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we will welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON..... Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, RSV

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of the LORD, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good tidings to the afflicted;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my soul shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring forth before all the nations.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9

⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁵**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise forever;**

⁶who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

⁷**The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

⁸the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

⁹**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON..... 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, RSV
Saint Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray constantly,
¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit,
²⁰do not despise prophesying, ²¹but test
everything; hold fast what is good,
²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself
sanctify you wholly; and may your
spirit and soul and body be kept sound
and blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is
faithful, and he will do it.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE, by Cantor

Alleluia.

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)

Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPELJohn 1:6-8, 19-28, RSV

Before the Gospel:

☩ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter:

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do

you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

☩ The Gospel of the Lord!

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON (*Sit, after the invocation.*)

HYMN LBW 36

On Jordan's Banks The Baptist Cry

PUER NOBIS

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."

THE OFFERING

Donate now: [Donate](#)

Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)

C **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Preface for Advent

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer I

☩ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

☩ Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

☩ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

☩ Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- ☐ Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
- ☑ **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

- ☑ **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.**

The Fraction (The Bread is broken)

Agnus Dei

- ☑ **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.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

- ✦ Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians who continue in the faith of the Church. If you would like to receive the Eucharistic Wine, please receive the small glass by the top edge, trying not to touch the minister's fingers. After communing, place the small glass on the tray, upright if possible.
- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly before or while receiving the Holy Sacrament, as many Christians do, here is one of Luther's prayers for that purpose:

Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to your altar. I am unworthy, but you have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; your Word is true. I do not doubt it. Let happen to me whatever you say. Amen.

- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly after receiving the Holy Communion, here is a possible such prayer. It is based on a prayer of St. Basil the Great (329-379):

O Master, Christ our God: I thank you for all the good things which you have bestowed upon me, and for this partaking of your life-giving Sacrament. And I pray: keep me, my loved ones, and this congregation under your protection, and in the shadow of your wings. For you are

the Bread of Life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto you we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

- ✦ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Anthem

O Esca Viatorum Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450-1517)
The Immanuel Choir

O esca viatorum,
O panis angelorum,
O manna coelitum,
Esurientes ciba
Dulcedine non priva
Corda quaerentium.

O food of travellers,
O bread of angels,
O heavenly manna,
Feed the hungry,
do not deprive hearts
searching for sweetness.

O lympha, fons amoris,
Qui puro Salvatoris
E corde profluis
Te sitientes pota
Haec sola nostra vota,
His una sufficis.

O springwater,
fountain of love,
that pours out from the pure
heart of Christ,
Drink of the thirsty
that satisfies all,
this alone is our prayer.

O Jesu, tuum vultum
Quem colimus occultum
Sub panis specie.
Fac, ut remoto velo
Post libera in coelo
Cernamus facie.
Amen.

O Jesu, your face
that we now reverence
is hidden in the form of bread.
Let us see you revealed,
the veil removed,
in the freedom of heaven
Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN LBW 37 *Hark A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* FREUEN WIR UNS ALL IN EIN

DISMISSAL

☒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

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- ✦ Note on our Bible Lessons: They are downloaded from Bible Gateway — <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.
 - ✦ NEW TO PRAYER LIST: Marion Molno, John & Nellie Figueroa (brother and sister-in-law of Ester Figueroa-Neubacher), Emma Kaefer, Ann Chomko, Bruce Harbour (Robin's father), Peter Davie (godfather of Thomas Wicks), Bennett Harris (colleague of Pastors Fryer), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Richard Kaefer (Emma's son), Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Charlie Beckwith (friend of Thomas Wicks), Olga Beloded (John Imhof's wife), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother)
 - ✦ Upcoming Events: Please join us for the annual "Hanging of the Greens" on Saturday, December 19th from 2p – 5p. As always, this is an important work session for us. We'll roll up our sleeves, dust everything in sight, decorate the big Christmas tree, hang the wreaths and ribbons and transform our dear church.
 - ✦ Poinsettia & Music Dedications for Christmas: Remember to send in your contributions along with your dedication in honor of or in loving memory of someone. This year we are asking for a \$20 donation for a Christmas poinsettia or whatever seems good to you in honor of our music. You can mail your check or cash and dedication directly to our church or if you attend service over the next couple of Sundays, deliver them directly to Pastor Carol or Interim Office Manager Melissa Phillips. Here is our church address:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
122 East 88 Street
New York, NY 10128

- ✦ God willing, we will have Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning worship services at our church. But it is important that you register for those services if

you would like to attend. We can hold up to fifty people spread out in our church and balcony. To protect people, we all need to wear masks. You can register with Interim Office Manager Melissa Phillips by phoning our church (212-289-8128) or sending her an email: parish.immanuelnyc@gmail.com

Thanks!