



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Larimore, ND
December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare the way;

The way for Christ –

the hope of Christ, and the peace of Christ –

to enter our world, and to enter our hearts.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole life long.

We will not trust in the power of this world,

But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

As we worship you in this place. AMEN

*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world...Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.’” (*John 8:12*)

Leader: What does the third candle symbolize?

All: The third candle reminds us that the Christ would be called the Prince of Peace. To follow him, we too must work for peace.

*LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE SONG (*we will sing this together*)

1.) Light the Advent candle one, Now the waiting has begun, We have started on our way, Time to think of Christmas day.

2.) Light the Advent candle two, Think of humble shepherd who Filled with wonder at the sight Of the star on Christmas night.

3.) Light the Advent candle three, Think of heav’nly harmony, Angels singing “Peace on earth,” At the blessed Saviour’s birth.

(sing the chorus after singing all three verses)

CHORUS: Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night. Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Lord, I confess my sin, You have promised to provide for all of my needs, and yet I mistrust Your promise. I know the futility of my own ambitions and my inability to do that which I desire. Today I need to recognize the sin within me, and ask that you would forgive me. Lord, in Your mercy, Forgive my sin and cleanse me so that I can be pleasing in Your sight and a minister in Your service.

God, our heavenly Creator... Praise God for the gift of love to us. **AMEN.**

***GATHERING HYMN** “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” ELW 257 vs.6-8

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WORD

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:1-11* PB 603-604

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for 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. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former

devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks; foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines, ⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD; you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. ⁷ Because their^[a] shame was double and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. ⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;^[b] I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being 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. ¹¹ For 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 up before all the nations.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM: *Psalm 126 PB 499 (read responsively)*

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,^[a] we were like those who dream. ² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”** ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. ⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.** ⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶ **Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:12-28* PB 961

¹² But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³ esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵ See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound^[a] and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. ²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brothers and sisters. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.^[b]
WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*Love Divine, All Loves...*” ELW 631 vs.2

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL** *John 1:1-28* PB 862

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[b]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[d] full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.^[e] ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who^[f] is close to the Father's heart,^[g] who has made him known.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah."^[h] ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[i] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” ELW 289

***OFFERING** “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” ELW 294 vs.3

***OFFERING 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.**

***APOSTLE’S CREED** pg. 105

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** “*Your Little Ones...*” ELW 286 vs.3

***THE LORD’S PRAYER**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

***SENDING HYMN** “*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*” ELW 270

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to prepare for the Messiah! **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today! If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Lori at 218-791-2671 or Julie at 701-741-5683. If you have an emergency, call Wayne Knudson (church president) at 218-779-3594 -or- Camilla Stover at 218-791-2678.

Our Savior’s Mission Statement:

“**Excited by faith**, we are called to **serve all**; gathered to **WORSHIP**, **inspired** to teach,
we are our Savior’s!”

CALENDAR

Today, 12/17/2023—3rd Sunday of Advent – **Sunday School Program**

9:00am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship w/Sunday School Program

11:00am—POTLUCK

Wednesday, 12/20/2023

3:30pm—Confirmation Class

Thursday, 12/21/2023

No Quilting for the rest of the year

Next Sunday, 12/24/2023—4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

9:00am—NO Sunday School

10:00am—NO Worship

5:00pm—**Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion**

Every day:

An opportunity to show we are Christians by our love.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mission of the Month for: Nov. – Dec.: FOOD PANTRY
- Noisy offering: Collected on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for the mission of the month(s).
- **DON'T FORGET:** If you plan to bring a poinsettia to the church for Christmas Eve service (on Sunday evening), and would like to have it noted in the bulletin, **please get all information to us no later than Wednesday, December 20th**, via email:
oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com -or- call/text Roberta (218-779-0359).
- **THANK YOU!:** The WELCA wish to thank all the men who came to serve, the women that provided all the salads and goodies, and also the women who were willing to read at the X-Mas Program on 12/6

8 Days until Christmas!

PRAYER LIST

To add or remove someone from the prayer lists, please email the church email: oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com or call/text Roberta Stover: 218-779-0359

We pray for those in need:

Family of Jerry Madsen **Family of Sam Barta** **Family of Jeanet Smith**
Family of Sandy Kyлло Family of Brent Nesdahl
Ron Petsinger Red Willow Bible Camp Country of Israel, and all countries in the world—that they come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord
Viola Lee Gloria Temple Lois Jemtrud Mark Sletten
Pr. Rena Peterson Donna Willoughby (daughter of Gordon Peterson)
Robbie Leake

OSLC Call Committee: *Paul Mutch, Dee Muir, Jenn Aamodt, Nancy Smith, Wayne Knudson (non-voting members: Luke Reinhold, Sadie Aamodt)*

Prayers for Homebound/Nursing Home Members:

LaVonne Jacobson Vicki Sweeney Dolores Mutch
Marv Jemtrud Arlene Lilja

Prayers for Armed Service Members:

Robert Norman Dillon Norman

Serving this Sunday

Ushers: W. & S. Knudson
Reader: R. Johnson & S. Knudson
Prayer: R. Stover
Communion: N/A
Fellowship: POTLUCK

Serving Next Sunday (12/24/23) @ 5:00pm

Ushers: Mike & Stephanie Johnson
Communion: Lori & Luke Reinhold
Fellowship: N/A

Serving on Sunday (12/31/23)—in 2 weeks

Ushers: ??—George & Mary Bailey
Reader: ??—Clarence
Prayer: ??—Mr. Potter
Communion: N/A
Fellowship: We have no one listed—Coffee Only