**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 15, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in 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.

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn ELW 242**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

alive in the world,

reviving creation,

arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God

and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through ☩ Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Away in a Manager (v. 1) ELW 277**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
  shout, O Israel!  
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
  O daughter Jerusalem!  
 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;  
  he has turned away your enemies.  
 The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
  you shall fear disaster no more.  
 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
 “Do not fear, O Zion;  
  do not let your hands grow weak.  
 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
  a warrior who gives victory;  
 he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
  he will renew you in his love;  
 he will exult over you with loud singing  
  18 as on a day of festival.”  
 I will remove disaster from you,  
  so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
 And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
 and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.  
 20 At that time I will bring you home,  
  at the time when I gather you;  
 for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,  
 when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6**

2 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.  
 3 **With joy you will draw water**  
  **from the wells of salvation.**  
 4 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.  
 5 **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;**  
  **let this be known in all the earth.**  
 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
  for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 4:7-18**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg. 171**

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

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”  
  10 And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 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.”  
  15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 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.”  
  18 So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry ELW 249**

**APOSTLES’ 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 power of 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

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

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in December*** *(collected in a special*

*envelope) will be the* ***ELCA Good Gifts Program****. This is being done in conjunction with the Sunday School.*

**OFFERING SONG** **Rejoice, Rejoice Believers ELW 244**

A candle flame in the dark

Description automatically generated**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg. 173**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,

for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,

for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,

for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and the light,

God, our hope for the journey,

☩ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN Joy to the World ELW 267**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, December 15 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School   * Third Sunday of Advent * Luke 3:7-18; One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire |
| Tuesday, December 17 | 2:00 pm | Chapel at Three Oaks |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, December 18 | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship  Confirmation Class |
| Sunday, December 22 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fourth Sunday of Advent * Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]; Blessed are you among women/My soul magnifies the Lord |

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SOS is experiencing record high numbers. The shelves are the lowest they've been in a long time. The Winter Wonderland donations will help but are a month away. The food list: Mac’n Cheese, Boxed Rice Meals, Canned Pasta Meals, Tuna, Canned Chicken. **Supplies of nearly everything are low but especially needed are broth, brownie/muffin Mix, canned carrots, canned tomato products, mayo, and canned stew.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| December 15 | Charles & Mary Schlafke | Tammy  Neumann | Dan & Pam Mundt | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis | December:  Dave & Sue Schraeder  Andrea Hovick |
| December 22 | Susan Schoolman | Shelly Schneider | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Pam Mundt | May Hill |
| December 24  (4:00pm) | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer |  |  |
| December 24  (7:00pm) | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer |  |  |
| December 29 | Volunteer | volunteer | Volunteer | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

Pastor Katie will be on vacation from Dec 25th to Jan 1st.

Office will be closed Dec 25th to 27th and Dec 31st, Jan 1st and Jan 3rd.

***Poinsettias*** will be purchased, and you may give a donation to help defray the cost to Altar Care. Forms are available on the table in the narthex. Your check & form need to be returned to the church office by December 15th. Designate your donation “Poinsettia”.

A red flowers and green leaves

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| A poster with two chicks wearing santa hats  Description automatically generated  We will have two Sundays of noisy offerings for ELCA Good Gifts in place of our typical pass around offering on December 15.  Bring your change as the children will be collecting it in buckets. The regular envelope will be available for the other services in December. |

**From Outreach Ministry**: Thanks to everyone for their generous support of the Wood County Elves Project. We supported two families and the pile of gifts under our Giving Tree was heartwarming. We know these six children and their families will have a much brighter Christmas thanks to your generosity.