

## **Third Sunday in Advent**



A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

#### Lord of Love Lutheran Church

#### Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

**Welcome!** We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

**Restrooms** – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

**Parent's Room** – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

**Assistance Getting Around** – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but certainly may if you wish.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated today. Mindful of the Bible's teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

**Explanation of the theme of the day:** Multiple studies have proven that the holiday season exacerbates mental health issues. For some, the pressure to have "a perfect Christmas" can be overwhelming. For others, their loneliness is amplified. Such people need a real Christmas, one that results in great joy. But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness—"holiday cheer"—is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring.

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that

## **Lord of Love Lutheran Church**

#### **December 15, 2024**

#### SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

#### **OPENING HYMN** (CW 7)

#### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.



#### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

#### LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

**M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



**M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**M:** We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

**M:** We hear his call to see the light.

C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. <sup>16</sup> In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

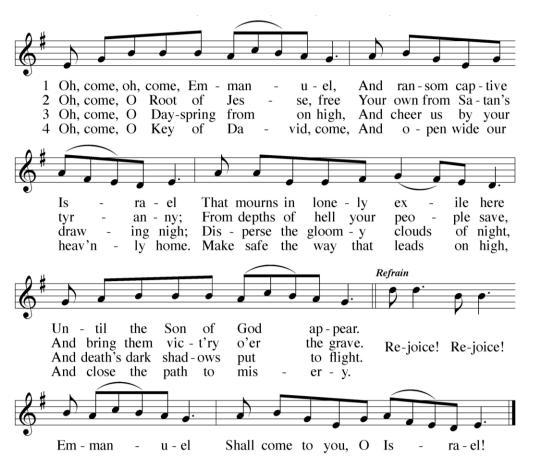
**M:** Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?" <sup>11</sup> He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."

- <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to."
- <sup>14</sup> Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?" He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."
- <sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier 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. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.



Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

SERMON Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### The Lord is Near!

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### GATHERING OF THANK OFFERING

During the gathering of the offering, please sign the Friendship Register.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare his way, making known his saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For our republic, for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.** 

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



#### THE SACRAMENT

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**M:** Lift up your hearts.

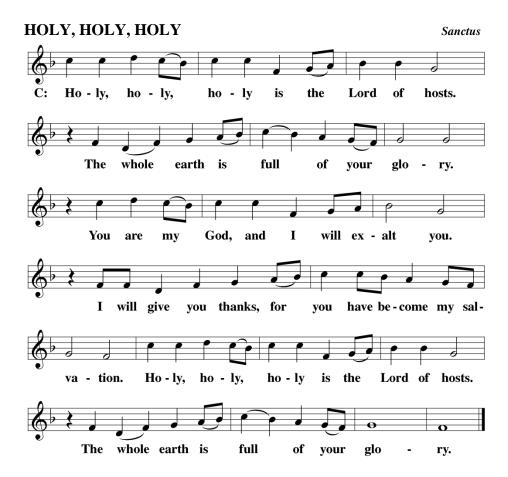


**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:



#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

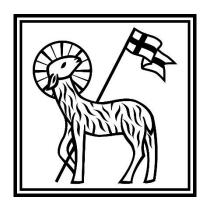




Agnus Dei



#### BE SEATED





Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, et 4, alt

Tune: Aus Meines Herzens Grunde (76 76 67 76) New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

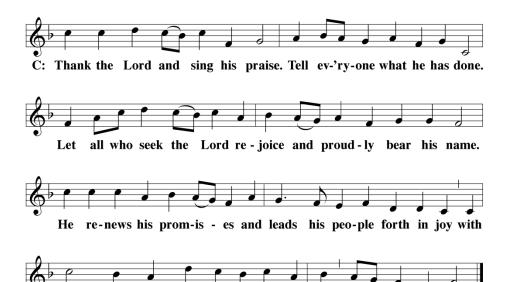


Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR (88 88 86 66) Freylinghausen, Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704.

#### **THANKSGIVING**

STAND

#### THANK THE LORD



of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Al-le - lu

ia!



shouts

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

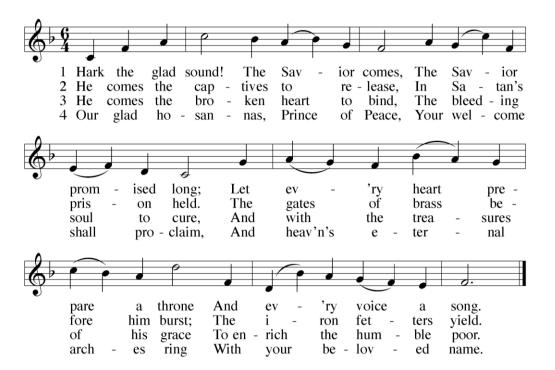
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



#### **CLOSING HYMN** (CW 12)

#### Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51, abr., alt.

Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

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#### **Personal Prayers for Worship**

#### **Before Communion:**

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

#### **After Communion:**

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

**Gluten Free communion wafers:** Gluten free communion wafers are available each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you require this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

**Sunday 9:15 am: Exodus, sanctuary** 

Tuesday 9:00 am: The Gospel of John, lower level

Wednesday 6:30 pm: Revelation, lower level

Friday 6:00 am: Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Esther

DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

#### **Sunday December 15: Third Sunday in Advent**

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: 8:00: Mike Wilson, 10:30: Steve Kalscheuer
- Ushers 8:00: Dave and Ben Olson
- Ushers 10:30: The Holzman Family
- Counters: Roger LaGrange and Greg Zeman
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson
- Refreshments: Donna Cotter and Barb Schade

#### Sunday December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: 8:00: Shane Strong, 10:30: Phil Boll
- Ushers 8:00:Steve and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30: Ryan Jaeger, Aaron Oughton
- Counters: Kim Bauer and Wayne Kaalberg
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson
- Refreshments: Sharon Freund

<u>Happy Birthday</u> We wish God's blessings to Barbara Shade (12/15), Karmin Wolfrum (12/15), Adaline Hartje (12/17), Nolan Craney, Phil Boll (12/19, and Jean Dragon (12/19) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

<u>Anniversary</u> We wish God's blessings to Lucas and Melissa Cabellaro (12/18) as they celebrate their anniversary this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, and Steve Tobison, who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

#### **COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE**

**December 18:** Children's Christmas Service | 6:630 pm

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Worship Service | 6:30 pm

**December 25:** Christmas Day Worship Service | 9:00 am

December 31: New Year's Eve Worship Service | 4:00 pm

#### Seeking Musicians for Our Christmas Eve Worship Service

If there are members (any ages) that would like to participate in the pre or post service music on Christmas Eve, please reach out to Kristin Huebner. Musical selections would be of a religious nature (not secular) and for children, we ask that their current piano, band, or vocal teacher be able to assist in the preparation of their choice. Kristin can be reached at 608-217-5109 (text or voice) and kmhueb@gmail.com

#### **Christmas Poinsettia Donations**

The altar guild is asking for donations of poinsettias (or funds to purchase on your behalf) this year to decorate for our Christmas services. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, simply purchase one (in any color) and bring it to church. The plants can be brought to church anytime during the month until December 23, and can be taken home after the Christmas Day worship. The altar guild will arrange and maintain the poinsettias. Any donations need to be received in the church office by December 15th Please use the small white labeled envelope found in the office, and can be placed in the collection basket on the counter.

#### **Thank you for the Giving Tree Donations**

A Huge thank you to all of you for helping provide families in our community gifts for this Christmas Season.

#### Please make note of these weekly schedule changes during the Month of December

- No Quilting December 23 or December 30
- No Tuesday Morning Bible Study December 24 & December 31

#### **Parish Nurse Note:**

I have closed the parish nurse email account as of 12/03/2024.

If you need to contact me, please email or call the church office and they will contact me.

Also, if any nurses in the congregation are interested in serving the Lord as a parish nurse, please let me know.

Anne Mackey

annetimmackey@hotmail.com

608-445-5008

# Christmas & New Year's Worship Schedule

## **Children's Christmas Service**

Do Not Be Afraid.

I Bring You Good News!

Wednesday December 18, 6:30 pm

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

December 24, 6:30 pm

## **Christmas Day Worship**

December 25, 9:00 am

## **New Year's Eve Worship**

December 31, 4:00 pm





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Pastor Joel Jenswold pr.jenswold@gmail.com Cell phone: 608-572-1654

Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday.
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

# "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122:1



Today's 8:00 service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament. Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.