

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

(C)

FIRST READING. Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
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;

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
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.
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.

SECOND READING. Philippians 4:4-7

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

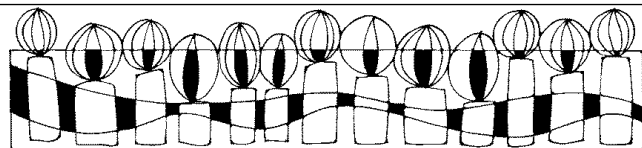
GOSPEL. Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. 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. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' 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.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



Sunday, December 12, 2021

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

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

COVID-19

Following guidelines from our Synod and Public Health, we are making every effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone must show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 and wear a face covering. Please stay home if you are ill. Let’s all stay safe!

Greenery

As we enter Advent, the Season of Hope, you will notice that greenery is placed on the altar to the Glory of God, in preparation for the coming Christmas fulfillment.

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran



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The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Isaiah 12:2-6 - Tune 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid.

**Unto the Lord I lift my soul;
I trust my God to make me whole.**

For the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**Let all on earth his glory tell,
The Holy One of Israel.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**With thankful heart my voice I raise
To sing aloud my Saviour’s praise.**

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Unto the Lord I lift my soul;
I trust my God to make me whole.**

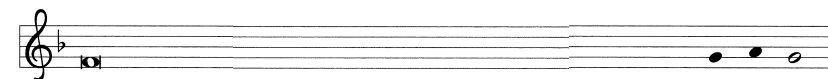
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

**With thankful heart my voice I raise
To sing aloud my Saviour’s praise.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Let all on earth his glory tell,
The Holy One of Israel!**

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:10



I am sending my messenger

be - fore you,

who will prepare your way
be - fore you. (Repeat alleluia)

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting 2 - Page 116 Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgivenessinsert

Gathering Song .267 Joy to the World

GreetingPage 120

KyriePage 120

Lighting of the Advent Candleinsert

Prayer of the Day

WORD

First ReadingZephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6.....printed in bulletin

Second ReadingPhilippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation ..printed in bulletin
“Glory to you, O Lord.”

GospelLuke 3:7-18
“Praise to you, O Christ.”

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day .242 Awake! Awake,
and Greet the New Morn**

Nicene CreedPage 126

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer Response “Your mercy is
great.”

Peace (non-contact
gestures)

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving.....Page 129

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord’s PrayerPage 134

Communion

“Lamb of God”Page 135

Communion Hymns241

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song ..248 People, Look East

Dismissal: Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.