

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

www.stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

After hour emergency: (443) 844-9314

Office@stjohnsparkville.org

Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

December 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

arr. David Paxton

(© 2010 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 (vv. 1, 2)

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

(Text: Frans Mickael Franzen, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Music: Swedish folk song, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

He Came Down

253

He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

(Text: Cameron traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell. Arr. (c) 1986 GIA
:Publications, Inc.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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. 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. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 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. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126

Psalm is read responsively. The assembly speaks the bold print.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are

you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 (vv. 1, 2, 5)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings! | 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there. |
| 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore. | |

(Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.)

A: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith in the words of the 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 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 THE CHURCH

After each petition Hear us, O God.
 Your mercy is great.

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 And also with you.

A PRAYER IN THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

LORDS 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239 (vv. 1, 4)

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song. | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name. |
|---|--|

(Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751; Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820.)

Announcements

A few friendly reminders:

- We will continue to live stream our worship services at 10 am on our YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/3nzgAWy> but services will be available any time after the live streaming.
- On December 21st we will be offering The Longest Night Service (A pre-recorded service of remembering our losses, acknowledging the darkness and celebrating the hope and light of Jesus.) This service will be available on our YouTube Channel.
- We are suspending in-person worship through the MLK Jr. holiday with the exception of a planned outdoor family service Christmas Eve at 4 pm in the church parking lot.
- Join us online for a Christmas Eve Worship Service on our YouTube Channel.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Tom McDonough's 93rd birthday by his son Michael and his family.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2021. The dates available are: January 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, March 7th, 14th and 21st, April 4th, 11th and 18th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.



Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor John

- January (tba) – The Year of St. Mark: An Overview

Contact the church office at office@stjohnsparkville.org to sign up and we will send you the Zoom link.

Doing Any Shopping Online for Christmas? Support St. John's when you shop. Go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6012034 and Amazon donates to Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Parkville Inc



We are excited to announce that the clothing shed is back open. All donations must be bagged. Acceptable donations are: All clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys. Thanks for your cooperation!

We have some advent materials available for adults and families. If you are interested, you may pick up the materials from the church office.



DISMISSAL

Now that we have heard the story and know the story...

Let us go into the world to tell the story and live the story!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

Robert Lau

(© 2016 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

From *SundaysAndSeasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual 30295.
Permission for hymn use and organ music granted under ONE LICENSE #735150-A

A few notes from your Financial Secretary:

I hope everyone has been staying well during these challenging times!

As we continue worshipping online through the end of 2020, I just wanted to send along these friendly reminders to you:

- Please make sure that any final 2020 contributions you wish to make to St. John's are received by the church office no later than Thursday, December 24th. Our final count and deposit for the year will be done the morning of Monday, December 28th. All contributions received in 2020 will be included on your 2020 Contribution Report. Reports will be generated and mailed to you in mid-January.
- Our Simply Giving program continues to be available to you in making contributions to St. John's. If you are interested in signing up, you may do so at any time. Please feel free to send me an email at haackefamily@comcast.net or give me a call at 410-661-8970 and I will send a form to you for you to complete. If you have any questions about filling out the form or the program, please let me know. I'm happy to help.

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church, thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Stay safe and be well!

Debra Haacke



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Bill Carroll, Vernon & Elaine Reid, Lee Krieger, Suzanne Lindsay, Kelly Sanford, Janine Stevens, Emily Rash, Joan Kraft, Patty Schwab, Tom & Marion McDonough, Ardi Scarborough, Gerry Steg, Shirley Watkins, Philip Kramer, Betty Hedgepeth, Kathi Peck, Bett Murphy, Vickie Jasinski, and Cynthia Kraemer

For family & friends: Margaret Iovino, Bill Johnson, Karen Alban, Tjark Steg, Karen Ehrenberg, Randy Powell, Linda Fliegel, Cheryl Aydelotte, Mary Jo Rother, Doug Adams, Bill Eubert, Doris Klug, Olivia Route, John Miller, Norma Weber, Marie Pilachowski, Charles & Pat Frank, Mike Fischer, Joann Kloby, Nancy Snyder, John & Patty Bowman, Kathy Amos, Farron Steel, Darlene Koch, Roxann Kelly, Terri Busby, Ms. Linton, Pam Harmen, Linda Asplin, Anna Meyers, and Barb Collins

For the military and their families: Jacob Verble, Lance Corporal Justin Ferro, Sgt. Stephen Peck, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, Chaplain A. J. Striffler and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Paul Huber, Wayne Zopp, Mary Hohne, Thomas Madden, Shirley Darling, Linda Gehrig, and Audrey Miller

For St. John's Caring Friends: Trudy Anderson, Alma Arnold, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Gladys Downs, Margaret Eubert, Betty Glassband, Betty Hedgespeth, Leroy Hohne, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Patrick O'Connell, Ann Powell, Arthur Pulket, Mary Ann Reek, Patricia Sollanek, Cass Tracey, Emma Volz, Doris Warfield, and Clara Westphal