

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 11, 2022

# ***PRELUDE***

*David Lasky*

*REJOICE, REJOICE  
Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn  
Festive Chorale and Toccata*

Please stand.

## ***CONFESSION OF FORGIVENESS***

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Together, let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*A time of silence and reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

## ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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# ***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH***

L: In this season of waiting, of longing, and of new beginnings, as we look for God to come into our world, we are seeking light.

L: In our own lives. **C: We are seeking light.**

L: in our neighborhoods. **C: We are seeking light.**

L: In our families. **C: We are seeking light.**

L: In our work. **C: We are seeking light.**

L: In our nation. **C: We are seeking light.**

L: In our world. **C: We are seeking light.**

P: As we seek out, and wait for the Light of Christ, let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

**C: Amen.**

# *LIGHT ONE CANDLE* *ELW 240 (verses 1,2,3 only)*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



*Please be seated. Sunday School children meet teacher at Nave door.*

# ***A READING FROM ISAIAH 35:1-10***

R: A reading from Isaiah the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus  
<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

R: Word of God! Word of Life!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## ***A READING FROM JAMES 5:7-10***

R: A reading from James the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

R: Word of God! Word of Life!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

## ***GOSPEL INTRODUCTION***



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## ***THE GOSPEL***

## ***MATTHEW 11:2-11***

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: 

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

P: <sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal



palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

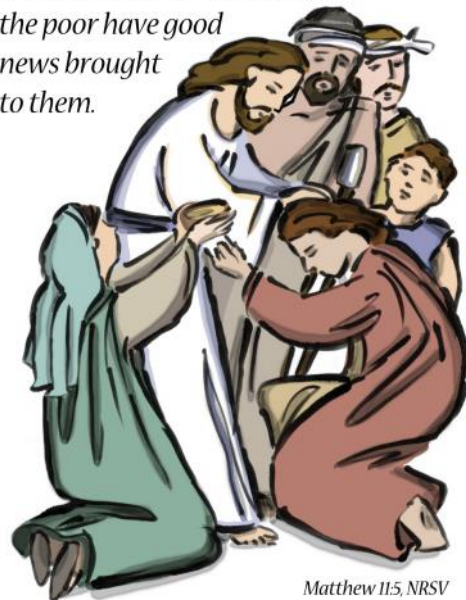
C:   
Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## ***TODAY'S REFLECTION***

Pastor C. J. Bailey

*The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.*



*Matthew 11:5, NRSV*

*Please stand.*

# ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

## ELW 266



*To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor*  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



*y, el sur - co, a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el*  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



*mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -*  
 la - bor of peo - ple, who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



*cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.*  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

# ***OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH***

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Martin Luther pondered, “What is this” or “What does this mean?”

**C: I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.**

L: In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property; along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.

**C: God protects us against all danger and shields and preserves us from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!**

P: For all of this we owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

**C: This is most certainly true.**

P: Do you believe in God the Son?

**C: 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.**

P: Martin Luther pondered, “What is this” or “What does this mean?”

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being.**

L: He has purchased and freed us from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

P: He has done all this in order that we may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

**C: This is most certainly true.**

P: Do you believe in God the Spirit?

**C: 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.**

P: Martin Luther pondered, “What is this” or “What does this mean?”

**C: I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel.**

L: The same Spirit has enlightened us with his gifts, made us holy and kept us in the true faith.

**C: Just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.**

P: Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

**C: This is most certainly true.**

# ***SHARING OF THE PEACE***

*You are invited to share the peace as you feel comfortable.*

*Please be seated*

## ***OFFERING AND MEDITATION***

*Daryl Hollinger*

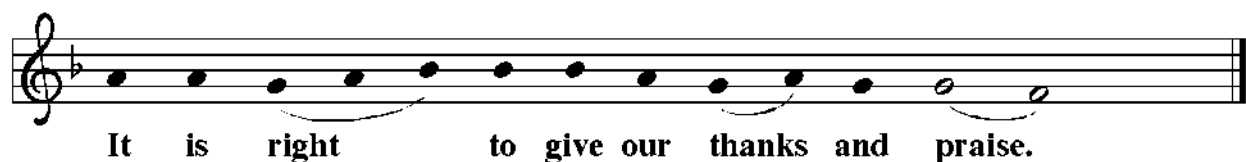
*BESANÇON  
People, Look East*

## ***PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION***

L: Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

## ***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***



# *THE PROPER PREFACE*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## *SANCTUS*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

# ***THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER***

**P:** 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 to remember 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 to remember me.

Together, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P:** All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C:** **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.**

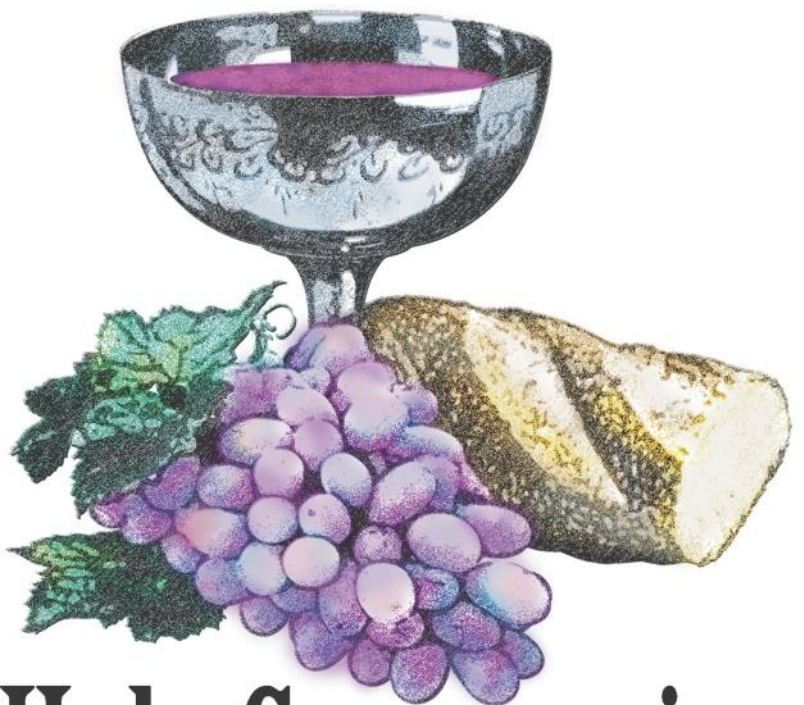
*Please be seated.*

*Communion will be offered in two  
manners this morning:*

*You may come forward or you  
may commune in your pew.*

***If you are coming forward, we  
will commune one side of the  
congregation at a time. There will  
be stations to receive the bread  
and wine and a basket to deposit  
your communion cups.***

***If you are communing in your  
pew, please pick up a  
pre-packed communion kit as  
you enter the Nave. After the  
Lord's Prayer, Pastor will give a  
blessing so that we may  
commune together.***



## **Holy Communion**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

**P:** Be strong, Do not fear!

Here is your God who has come to save you!



# HE CAME DOWN

## ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional  
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## TABLE BLESSING

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**L:** Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

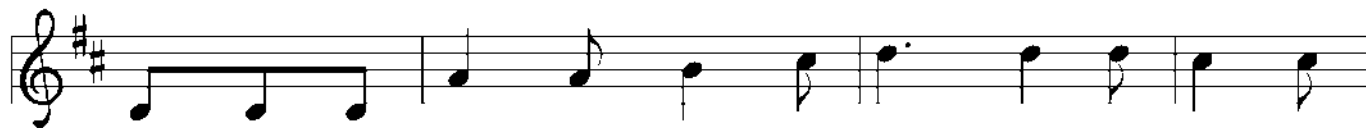
## BLESSING

**P:** God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



*Please stand.*

## *People, Look East* *ELW 248*



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON. French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

# ***DISMISSAL***

P: Go in peace!  
Christ is near!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

# ***POSTLUDE***

*Michael Bedford*

*Rejoice, O Earth*  
*Organ Improvisations on World Songs*  
*VII. People Look East*

## *Today's Worship Leaders*

Cantor:	Victor Welsch	Facebook Camera:	Wendy Bailey
Lector:	John Kobelt	Slide Show Creator:	Pastor Bailey
Host:	Nominee Family	Slide Show Operator:	Andrew Bailey
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King	Worship Leader:	Pastor C.J. Bailey
		Lay Leader:	John Kobelt

Many thanks to our faithful volunteers who help bring Sunday Worship Services to you on WTTF, Facebook Live and in person.

We are not able to offer all of these opportunities without the help of many people.

May your generosity in volunteering time and talents come back to you in an abundance of blessings.

**Poinsettia envelopes are available**

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia  
in honor or memory of someone.

a \$10 donation per poinsettia is suggested.

Envelopes can be found in the lobby area or in the Church Office.



The Mitten Tree is ready to be decorated with donations of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks. Donations can be placed on the tree or in the box below the tree during the month of November.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Pastor:  
**CLAYTON J. BAILEY**

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419-447-1323

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Director of Music:  
**CURTIS L. KING**

“God is among us!”  
“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive,  
reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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