



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 13, 2020

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

December 13, 2020
3rd Sunday of Advent
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come! Rejoice in our God. Let us give thanks, whatever life brings.

All: **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

L: Let us prepare our hearts and our world for the Prince of Peace, who is coming.

All: **May all who weep come home with shouts of joy.**

L: Prepare the way of the Lord, and make straight the path for God’s arrival.

All: **In prayer, song, and service, let us prepare for the birth of love.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

P: God of the prophets, we give thanks for the voices that cry out and demand our attention.

All: **They call us to put our trust and hope in you.**

P: Forgive us when we close our eyes to your vision,

All: **and when we stop our ears to your promise.**

P: Heal our weakness when we give up on ourselves,

All: on one another, and on you.

P: Free us from hopeless living,

All: that we may joyfully love and serve others in your holy name.

Silence for Reflection

P: Know that we are forgiven in Christ's name.

All: May Love live in us and through us, that all may know God's peace.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: We wait for You in the stillness. In the darkness before dawn.

All: We are sheep without a Shepherd, we are shepherds waiting for the news.

P: The prophet said, He tends his flock like a shepherd:

All: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

P: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

All: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

P: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

All: We wait in joy.

Candles are lit.

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, in a world where the message is "be happy," we are reminded that only you grant the gift of true joy.

All: This morning let us hear again with joyful hearts and proclaim with elated voices the wondrous refrain of your

coming: “The Lord, our God, is with us both now and forevermore.” We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREETING

P: Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! God is with you.

All: And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,

All: 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.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Listen for God’s word coming to us in scripture.

All: Our hearts and minds are open.

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.

GOSPEL . . . *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He 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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: God be in our listening. God be in our understanding.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Carmen Blair*

HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God, your love renews us and restores our strength.

All: With gratitude, we offer you a portion of what you have given to us.

L: Receive our gifts, our prayers, and our service,

All: that your church may become a source of hope for the world. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

All: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, anointing us to bring hope and joy to all people.

All: Let us go and prepare the way for the Lord of Joy. Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE . . . “Christ, Be Our Light”

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist and Reader: The Wicke Family

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema