

# LARGE PRINT EDITION



## HOLY COMMUNION

*3 Advent*

December 15, 2024 + 9:30 am

*One more powerful is coming,  
baptizing with fire*

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Learn Live and Share God's Word

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*Christ, the farmhand gathers wheat into the barn of heaven*

*The presence of the Lord “in your 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.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### GATHERING MUSIC

“O Lord How Shall I Meet You”

*arr. J. Crude*

*At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*(hymn) ELW 436*

“Awake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

- 1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
awake, Jerusalem, at last.  
Midnight hears the welcome voices,**

and at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.  
The bridegroom comes! Awake;  
your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!  
Rise and prepare the feast to share;  
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing.  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:  
her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
Now come, O Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!  
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!  
Let saints and angels sing before you,  
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,  
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,  
with angel choirs around your throne.  
No eye has caught the light,  
no ear the thund'ring might of such glory.  
There we will go: what joy we'll know!  
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## **GREETING**

**P** From the One who was, and who is, and who is to come:  
Grace and peace be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

A The Spirit and the church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A All those who await his appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

L We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. In this third week of waiting, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

*This Sunday's candle is lit during the singing of the Advent hymn.*

## ADVENT HYMN

*(hymn)* ELW 240

"Light One Candle"

*stanza 1 - 3*

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.**
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.**
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*The presider continues with words of welcome.*

# **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

## **CHILDREN'S WORD**

*Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.*

## **FIRST READING**

*Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst*

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>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;  
he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

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

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>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.

...Word of God, come down to us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

Isaiah 12:2-6

*In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (12:6)*

A Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation.

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

**I am sending my messenger before you,  
who will prepare your way before you.**

A And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name is exalted.

**C Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

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

**C I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation.**

## **SECOND READING**

*Rejoice, the Lord is near*

Philippians 4:4-7

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter.*

*Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.*

*Paul writes to the church at Philippi:*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

...Word of God, come down to us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*setting 3 p. 142*

*The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:*

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **GOSPEL**

*One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire*

Luke 3:7-18

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

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? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax 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."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*(hymn)* ELW 253

“He Came Down”

- 1 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.**
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

Text Cameroon traditional

### APOSTLES' CREED

**A** We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** 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.**

## **ADVENT CONFESSION**

**P** As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sin  
and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

*silence is kept for reflection*

**P** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of  
heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, I pray God Almighty to  
have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to  
everlasting life. Amen.

**C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sin.

**P** Amen.

**C** I confess to God Almighty,  
before the whole company of heaven,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.  
Therefore, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,  
forgive me all my sin,

**and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sin.

**C Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.*

A Awaiting the promised light,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*each petition concludes:*

...Come Lord Jesus.

**C Bless us with your presence.**

*finally:*

P ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

# **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

*The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

## **OFFERING**

*When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During*

*this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.*

“Prepare Ye the Way”

*Allen Pote*

## **Presentation of the Gifts**

### **Offertory Prayer**

A Let us pray together.

C **God of abundance,**

**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

*The assisting minister pours out the wine.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P ...and join their unending hymn: *setting 3; page 144*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and  
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in  
the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:*

### **Lord’s Prayer (1789)**

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

**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.

### **Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion**

#### **Communion**

“Lamb of God”

*setting 3; page 146*

**C** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin  
of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take  
away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*silence for reflection concludes the communion*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**A** Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread  
and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome  
Christ into our lives, and send us forth to be your people in  
the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

# **SENDING**

*We are sent to be God's hands in the world*

## **BLESSING**

P May God direct your ways in peace,  
make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*(hymn)* ELW 867

“In Thee Is Gladness”

- 1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,  
thou the true redeemer art.  
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.  
Who trusts thee surely has built securely  
and stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining,  
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;  
naught can us sever: Alleluia!**
- 2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,  
not of earth or sin or death.  
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;  
he can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story tell of his glory  
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices  
in him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,  
love him and praise him and still shall raise him**

**glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Prepare the way.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **POSTLUDE**

“In Thee Is Gladness”

*arr. Lindemann/Winkworth/Gastoldi*

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## **SERVING TODAY**

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Karen Moeller, *assisting minister*

Stephenie Labandz, *reader*

Liz and Joel Merkens, *Advent wreath household*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Myrna Flatland, Anna Matthes, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Doug and Linda Jones, *ushers*

Dave Larson, *bus ministry*

Doug and Linda Jones, *coffee hosts*

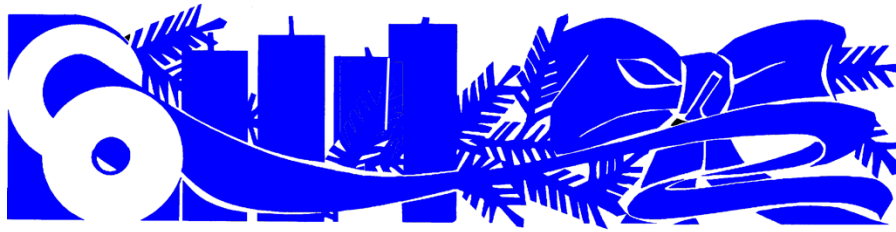
**Chancel flowers** this weekend are given by Doug and Linda Jones  
in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.*

*Please join us for pie & coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.*

*This service is being streamed live on the internet.*

# WELCOME



**Everyone is welcome.** We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org)

**Children are welcome** at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

**Welcome to the Lord's Table.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

**Welcome to the Holy Baptism.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.



## Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org) for more information or to join.



**Digital giving** is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at [mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org) and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.

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