

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—"BREATH OF HEAVEN"



"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

**PRELUDE** *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*      tune *Es ist ein Ros'*, arr. S. McDonald/L. Wood  
prerecorded by Janell Lemire, harp

### WELCOME

### INVOCATION

Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God,  
the God who comes to set us free;  
the Breath of Heaven who comes as hope among us;  
the Dawn from on high leading us into peace and joy.  
**Amen.**

### KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
 peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
 word, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have  
 Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.  
 mer - cy. A - men.

God does have mercy upon us.  
 Breathe deeply the forgiveness we have been given in the name of + Christ.  
**Amen.**

**APOSTOLIC 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.**

**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.**

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God of branch and blaze, You beckon us to rejoice always. We light the third candle of our evergreen crown trusting in your promise that though happiness might elude us, joy authored by You is always to be found. **Amen.**

## MUSIC FROM TAIZE *Within Our Darkest Night*

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The third system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

# WORD

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

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

*read by Amy Merchant*

- <sup>1</sup>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;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>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.  
<sup>9</sup>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.  
<sup>10</sup>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.  
<sup>11</sup>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.**

HYMN *Joyful Is the Dark*



1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
 2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,  
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;  
 4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,  
 5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,



roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:  
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;  
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,



maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
 swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.  
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*read by Lauren Fuchs*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Breath of Heaven*** words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant  
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

*Solo: Do you wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be strong.*

**Refrain**

Breath of Heav-en, hold me to - geth-er, be for-ev - er near me, Breath of  
Heav-en. Breath of Heav-en, light - en my dark-ness, pour o - ver me your  
ho - li-ness, for you are ho - ly, Breath of Heav-en.

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

The Holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*enter into sermon with a breath prayer:  
Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #726 *Light Dawns on a Weary World***



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



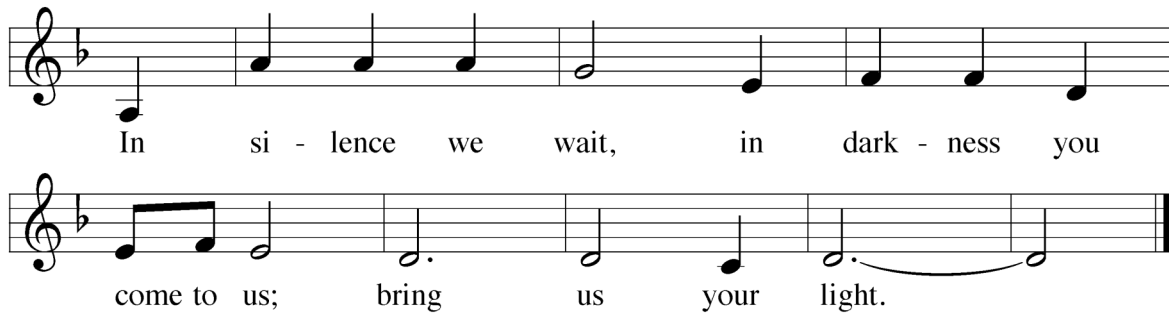
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each prayer petition is followed by silence, then we respond after the words, we pray:



In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you  
come to us; bring us your light.

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

### OFFERTORY MUSIC *Lo, How a Rose/The Rose*

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming: 15<sup>th</sup> century German carol, music by Michael Praetorius  
The Rose: words and music by Amanda McBroom  
prerecorded by the Soli Deo Gloria Choir; Aine Miller, soloist*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!*

*Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;*

*Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung,*

*Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed;*

*It came a Flow'ret bright,*

*Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;*

*Amid the cold of winter,*

*I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.*

*When half-spent was the night.*

*It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;*

*It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;*

*It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;*

*And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

*This Flow'r whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,*

*When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;*

*Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.*

*And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;*

*True man, yet very God!*

*Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;*

*From sin and death He saves us*

*Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.*

*And lightens ev'ry load.*



## OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.  
**Amen.**

## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14*

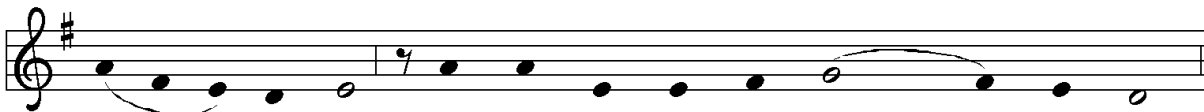
As we travel through this wilderness of time  
even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.

We break off a piece of bread, touching, tasting and seeing,  
remembering our God- Breath of Heaven, Body of Earth. As we eat  
this bread, we remember all the ways God draws near, sustaining us until  
the day we gather again around this table in this place. We live in hope.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and op - en wide our  
6 O come, O Day-spring, come and c heer; O Sun of jus - tice



Heav' - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,  
now draw near. Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,



and close the path to mi - se - ry. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
and death's dark sha - dow put to flight.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Trusting that our God draws near, we pray:

**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.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

### **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN #248 *People Look East*



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.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE *Carol of the Bells*

Ukrainian carol, M. Leontovich, arr. Mark Hayes  
Jane Howard, piano

**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church

**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

**PASTORAL INTERN** Logan McLean Strike

**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate  
Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

**MUSICIANS** Aine Miller, Erna Peterson, Glenn Peterson, David Haavik and John Sippola,  
singers; Janell Lemire, harp; Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar;  
Jane Howard, piano

**VIDEOGRAPHER** Shania Krause, Sam Weston

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** Stacie Curnow

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*Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):*

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.  
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

**faithlovecommunity**  
First Lutheran Church

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