

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

THIS SEASON **KNOW**



Confess Our Faith

John 12:39-46

Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

VERSICLE: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’”

Revelation 22:20

WORSHIP NOTES – The leaders of the Jews had a dilemma. They may have been attracted to Jesus for all the right reasons yet they loved their positions “in the synagogue.” Do we love praise from men more than praise from God? We live in a world that seeks to negate our Christian testimony. We may be inclined to remain silent to protect our place in life, our income, our friendships, our status. But certainly there comes a time when we step out of the darkness and embrace the light, in other words, we let people know that we believe in Jesus as our one and only savior from sin.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP O Heavenly Father, You promised to send a messenger to prepare the way before Jesus’ coming; You kept that promise. Remind me today that You will always be faithful to me, even as You were faithful in keeping the promise of the messenger. Work in me a desire to live faithfully in all aspects of my life, that others might see Your love in me and through me. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

GUESTS Welcome to our visitors!

Restrooms: At the far (south) side of the entry area.

Parents’ Room: Also at the far (south) side of the entry area.

Hearing Help: Enhanced hearing units are available. Contact an usher.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

THE OPENING HYMN “O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL”

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above.
Glory to God, glory in the highest
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv’n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

WE ASK THE LORD TO FORGIVE US AND LEAD US

P: This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." Aware of his Advent among us, we gather this day in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Lord, come to live in us! Lord, help us live for you! Lord, let us praise you with our hearts, souls, and minds. We sing for joy to the Lord and shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P: O Lord, in your holiness you show your anger because we've sinned. Like the children of Israel, your chosen people, we continue to sin even when we know what we're doing.

C: Can we still be rescued from the darkness and dominion of evil?

P: Not by ourselves, for the prophet Isaiah declares that we've all become unclean, our righteous acts are like permanently stained rags and we shrivel like the dead leaves. Our sins carry us away like the wind.

C: Apart from the gospel, no one calls on your name. Left to ourselves, we are ruined in our sin. Lord, God of grace, please do not hide your face from us.

P: Father, forgive us for we have sinned against your holiness and your good will. Tear open our hearts with repentance. Remove our guilt forever.

C: Do not be angry with us, Lord, for we are your people. Come down and look upon us with mercy. *(Quiet Moments for Personal Prayer & Confession)*

P: Our God is a great God. He provides for all our needs. He gives us daily bread and draws us to himself with his love. Our sin no longer controls us. Our lives are the response to his love. The death of his Son, Jesus Christ, has paid the cost of our sin and has set us free to live in victory. We are forgiven. We are sons and daughters of the King. We are "ministers of reconciliation" to each other as we share in the forgiveness of sins. Praise God for his compassion and love.

C: Rejoice! The LORD IS Come!

PRAYER

ALL: Loving Savior, the treasure of your mercy has turned our lives from sin, despair, and death into a jubilee of forgiveness and joy. Empower us by your great love to share this joyful good news, so that many more people might know your mercy and praise your name. We pray to you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

THE FIRST LESSON **ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17**

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

SONG

"IN CHRIST ALONE"

In Christ Alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depth of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sinner on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again

And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse had lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

THE EPISTLE LESSON PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

As we anticipate the coming deliverance, Paul says, "Rejoice always," for "the Lord is near." Let our Advent joy be expressed in prayer and thanksgiving that stem from God's peace, given us in his transcendent gift of his Son as our Savior. So many parts of this sorted world seek to rob our joy in Christ. No wonder Paul told us twice: "I say it again, Rejoice!"

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE based on Philippians 4

THE GOSPEL JOHN 12:39-46

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them." Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God. Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE SONG OF THE DAY “O COME O COME EMMANUEL”

O come O come Emmanuel. And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
and order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

WE LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM HIS WORD

JOHN 12:39-46 “FOR THIS REASON: CONFESS OUR FAITH”

THE OFFERING & WELS CONNECTION

To honor God and to remind each other that our offerings are part of our regular gathering and worship, we bring the offering baskets up to the altar at this time. We will also watch the WELS Connection video magazine which reports on various ministries around the world. Please sign in on the Friendship Register (in each bench) or fill out a guest card at the Welcome Center.

WE PRAY AND JOIN IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

WE LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE WITH HIS BLESSING

THE CLOSING SONG

“CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS” (Christmas Version)

Crown Him with many crowns, the King who left His throne.
Creator of the universe, born to the world He holds.
And with that first drawn breath the Word has become flesh.
Emmanuel has come to us O crown Him all the earth.

Crowned by the angel choir, they tell His royal birth.
Sing glory in the highest height and peace upon the earth.
They break the silent night announcing endless worth.
The King of grace and love is here O crown Him all the world.

Crowned by their royal gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh.
Wise men approach this manager throne with honors from afar.
Behold the Son of God and bow down in this place.
The Prince of Peace has come to us O crown Him with your praise.

Crown Him with many crowns, the lamb upon His throne.
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but it's own.
Awake my soul and sing. God sent His Son for me.
Now hail Him as the matchless King through all eternity.

Awake my soul and sing. God sent His Son for me.
Now hail Him as the matchless King through all eternity.
Crown Him Crown Him, Crown Him with many crowns
Crown Him, Crown Him, Crown Him with many crowns.

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (12/12)	8:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM Sunday School & Teen Bible Study 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:45 AM Voters' Meeting
Monday	5:30 PM Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	8:30 AM Children's Chapel 4:00 PM Public School Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Bible Information Class
Thursday	3:30 PM Advent Worship w/communion 7:00 PM Advent Worship w/communion
Friday	9:00 AM Mom's Circle
Saturday	7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
Sunday (12/19)	8:00 AM Worship Service w/communion 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM Teen Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School Christmas Service Practice 10:30 AM Worship Service w/communion 4:00 PM LES Christmas Program

Next Week's Readings

First Lesson	ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17
Second Lesson	PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3:7-18
Psalms	Psalms 130

OUR SAVIOR EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

"KNOW THE REASON"

Service Theme

PASTOR:

Mark Wagner

MUSICIANS:

Deanna Edwards

George Edwards

Robert Klug

Andrea Havlik

Greta Liebenow

SONGS:

As Printed

FIRST LESSON:

Zephaniah 3:14-17

SECOND LESSON:

Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 12:39-46

THE SERMON:

John 12:39-46

"For this Reason:
Confess Our Faith"
