

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020 – 9 AM



AS WE GATHER In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

† IN DOMINE JESU †

(In the Name of Jesus)

PRELUDE**WELCOME** "This is the Day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it." *Ps. 118:24***GATHERING HYMN****"When All the World Was Cursed"***LSB 346 vs. 1-2*

1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,

Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.

With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,

And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:

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INVOCATIONP: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.****CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Behold, the true light of Christ has come into the world. His presence is real. He is here among us and knows our sin, all of it, yet brings with Him complete forgiveness for each of us. We confess

C: Lord God, our Heavenly Father, by your Spirit we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin. We are reluctant and filled with self-pride many times that distances us from your Spirit to rejoice in you always and give thanks in prayer. The troubles we have, if we are truthful, are self-wrought. We ask you through our Savior, Jesus, to pardon our sinful ways and shine the light of His mercy into hearts dispelling the deep darkness in our lives.

P: The true light has come and is here. Rejoice in Jesus you are forgiven. Receive the light of His glorious grace that dispels the darkness in our lives. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness **and illumine Your Church.**

ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN

“When All the World Was Cursed”

LSB 346 vs. 3-4

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world’s transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The devil’s dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.**
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior’s way
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together, **Lord Jesus Christ, true light of the world, by your Living Word and Holy Spirit lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

*(The Apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rely on Christ
in all circumstances with rejoicing and thanks)*

L: ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC INTERLUDE

“Christmas” Concerto No. 8; Adagio

by Corelli

Violinists: Abigail Cheng and Christy Liang

VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

**Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.
Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(The testimony of John the Baptist concerning the light and the Christ to come)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter. **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten" LSB 914vs. 1, 4 - Tune 621 (Picardy)

MESSAGE

"The Murdocks, the Pandemic and Christmas with a French Twist"

Written by Bonnie Nowak © 2020

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer")*

(after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

† CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

THE LORD'S PRAYER P: In preparation for the Lord's supper we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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.**

THE PREPARATION *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

ONE BODY IN CHRIST *(As brothers and sisters in Christ, as one body we communion with the invitation of the following words)*

P: Take and eat this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ given into death for all your sin.

P: Take and drink this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sin.

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast, in the one true faith, to life everlasting. Go in peace, joy, love and forgiveness. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together. **We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have graced us with Your presence in this Sacrament, and we pray that You would keep us in the one true faith until life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our offering plates are at the bank of the sanctuary. We also have online giving at our website with instructions if you need any help please call us.
2. Also, please read through the church announcements today for ministry opportunities.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

SONG OF SENDING "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

By: Brad Henderson

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission! **C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †

(To God be the Glory)

THE POST SERVICE MUSIC

(reprisal sending song)

Holy Cross Happenings

December 13 – December 20, 2020

WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS! Welcome to the Lord's House. God bless you as hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class - This group will meet in the sanctuary for space. The OT book of Nahum will be led by Rev. Robert Nowak. The teaser for you to participate... Robert "finds it fascinating and so much like the world we live in today"! Come for ancient history, Assyrian empire origin information, and more!

Informal prayer time - We will continue the informal time of prayer at Holy Cross on Wednesday evenings from 7:45 – 8:30 pm after our Advent service. All are welcome. We will be praying for Holy Cross, our nation, Covid concerns and any other prayer requests. We will provide a list of what to pray for and bring along your personal prayers also. Please pray about joining us for all or some of these Wednesday nights.

The Sanctuary Course Please join us today at 11 am in the preschool room, for the "Sanctuary" class on mental health understanding and support for our families and community. Pastor Jim will facilitate the class. If you are unable to join us, please see Pastor or Vivian to do the online course.

Children/Youth Christmas Program will be today during worship service. The continuing saga with the Murdock family and Aunt Agatha is written and ready! What surprises will this Christmas hold??? . . . come and see, or 'tune in' by Zoom to find out! It's sure to be memorable, just like this year has been for all of us! You won't want to miss it. **NOTICE:** Besides coffee, we will be serving individually wrapped cookies. Thank you for your Christmas spirit!!!

2021 Church Envelopes – 2021 Offering envelopes are ready for everyone to pick up. They are on the administrative assistant's counter. Please pick up, but do not start using until January 3, 2021. Feel free to pick up for all members in your family. Thank you for your help.

McKenna visiting – If anyone is interested in visiting Lohart on Wednesday at 10 am they set up a special indoor area distancing each other, people can meet Pastor, Janean or Nancy and attend with them when they visit. Please contact the church office if interested.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you.

SERVING SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2020 9:00 am

Communion Support: Brit Weimer
Lector: Judy Weimer
Ushers: Jason Kruse
Acolyte: Colin Kruse
AV: Jason Eickhoff
Offering Counters: Dave Albrecht & Doug Schulze

SERVING ADVENT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 7:00 PM

Communion Support: Dave Albrecht
Lector: Carol Albrecht
Ushers: Denny Case
Acolyte: Allie Wagner
AV: Jason Eickhoff

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 9:00 AM

Communion Support: Jon Dobberstein
Lector: Mary Deluhery
Ushers: Dinah Gilberts
Acolyte: Blake Dobberstein
AV: Rostina Vannett
Offering Counters: Meg Batchelder & Michele Lein

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS

Attendance – 12-06-2020

Worship: 38 + ? streamers = 38
Communion: 35 + 3 Drive-up = 38
Bible Study: 12 Sanctuary Class: 6
Sunday School: 4 kids & 2 teachers

Rite of Confirmation @ 1:00 pm

50 + 28 streamers = 78

Mid-Week Advent Service 12-09-2020

Worship: 21

Responding to God's Grace

Contributions needed/month (General Fund): \$21,982.50
Contributions received in November \$21,361.57

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

Sunday December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion also via Zoom
Children's Christmas Program
- 10:15-10:45 am Drive-up Communion
- 10:00-11:00 am "Nahum" Bible Study
Sunday School
- 11:00 am "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health

Monday December 14

- 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday December 15

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 7:00 am Prior Lake LaLeche League

Wednesday December 16

- 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
- 7:00 pm Advent Service

Thursday December 17

Friday December 18

Saturday December 19

- 9:00 am Church Cleaning

Sunday December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 am Worship W/ Holy Communion also via Zoom
- 10:15 am Drive-Up Communion
- 10:00 am "Nahum" Bible Study in Sanctuary
SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 am "Sanctuary" Course on Mental Health



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Office Ministry Assistants: Meg Batchelder and Dorene Oak
Pastor James Jobst: (612) 615-2939