



## **DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

---

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

The Third Sunday of Advent

# Sunday, December 13, 2020

## The Third Sunday of Advent

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

---

*"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.*

### **Lucy, martyr, died 304**

*Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.*

### PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

---

Improvisation on *Veni Emmanuel*

*This Advent, we are beginning each service with two verses of what is perhaps the most well known Advent hymn, "O Come O Come Emmanuel," sung in the place of the "Glory to God" that we sing during non-penitential seasons. Today, our organist Kevin Seal will spontaneously improvise a prologue based on this venerable tune.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

---

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God.**  
**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
† comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*All sing in unison:*

**O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

---

**GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

Let us pray.

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.**

---

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

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<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.**

## PSALMODY (ELW): Luke 1:46b-55

---

*The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.*



Psalm 126:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**  
**Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great | things for**  
**them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,**  
**like the watercourses | of the Negeb. REFRAIN**

<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**  
**will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. REFRAIN**

## SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

---

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ’s coming.*

A reading from First Thessalonians.

<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.**

*The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Cantor:** I am sending my messen- | ger before you,\*  
who will prepare your | way before you. (Matthew 11:10)

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

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

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.**

## SERMON

*Pastor Steve Springer*

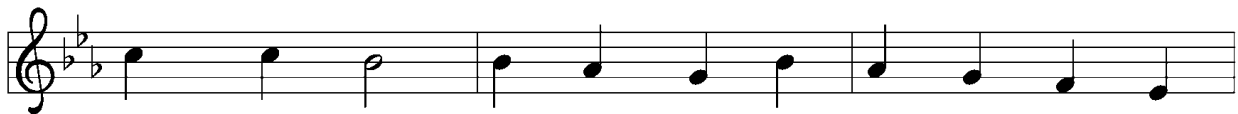
## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

ELW #246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we  
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
 down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”  
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 one and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 and with words of love draw near.  
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

---

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds **"Hear our prayer."**

Waiting, watching and wanting to rejoice, let us pray.

O Gd,

stir up the church, our will and our hearts, to hear, to understand and respond to the word of your coming, the word which speaks of might and mercy, so that we, as people who worship in your name, may magnify not our efforts but the wonder and glory of your saving ways.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd, stir up the church to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks in all circumstances. Help us in our life and work together that we do not quench the spirit, but hold to what is good, sound and blameless.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

Mighty One, Holy Name,

we yearn to rejoice in a savior, because we have seen disturbing troubles.

So we ask, stir up the strength in your mercy as we pray for mighty things:

*show strength with your arm,*

*scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts,*

*bring down the mighty from their throne,*

*lift up the lowly,*

*fill the hungry with good things.*

O Gd, with great might help this troubled world, its lands and its nations.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

Merciful One, Holy Name,

we yearn to rejoice in a savior, because we have seen suffering and pain.

So we ask, stir up the steadfast love in your might as we pray for mercy and favor:

*bring good news to the oppressed*

*bind up the broken hearted*

*provide for those who mourn*

*clothe those in need with the garment of salvation.*

O Gd, in tender mercy help troubled people, known, unknown, but all known to you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally O Gd,

we remember the promise made to our ancestors and to our descendants that you do and will come in light and love, might and mercy. We pray then, come quickly that we see it together with all the saints, this glory of your holy reign.

Lord in you mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

---

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.**

**MEDITATION**

Members of Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

---

*Come Quickly, Lord Jesus*  
Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

*Composer Mark Schweizer set his own words inspired by Isaiah's prophecy that admonishes us to heed the voice in the wilderness and prepare a way for the Lord's coming.*

O come now, Lord Jesus, our DaySpring, our Cheer,  
And lift up our spirits by your Advent here.  
The herald is calling, his cry we obey,  
In deserts and valleys, "Prepare God away."

O come, Root of Jesse, O come now and free  
Your people, your children from death's tyranny.  
The poor and the needy who suffer great wrong  
Give strength and give justice and bid them be strong.

O come Key of David, our hearts open wide;  
Our path, guard with safety and lead us on high.  
Make straight what was crooked and rough places plain,  
Make hard hearts be humble for God's holy reign.

Come quickly Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
Creator, Redeemer, the people's true light,  
Let all things on earth and in heaven adore,  
And own you as Savior and King evermore.

**COMMISSION**Pastor Stephen Springer

---

**BLESSING**

---

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Macht hoch die Tür, die Tor macht weit* (Make high the doors, the gates make wide)  
 Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

*"Make High the Doors" is a popular German Advent hymn, written in 1623 to celebrate the inauguration of a German Lutheran church. Two weeks ago we heard an arrangement of this chorale by Helmut Walcha, a 20th-century German composer and organist. This morning, we hear an arrangement by Flor Peeters, a 20th-century Belgian composer and organist who is an almost exact contemporary of Walcha. His arrangement is quite different, however, featuring the melody on a trumpet stop in the left hand with a flowing 16th note accompaniment.*

*DISMISSAL*

---

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister: John Hoelter  
Lector: Dianne Huston  
Cantor: Eric Holtan