

# DECEMBER 4, 2022



## Welcome & Announcements

**Memorial Garden** – We are searching our members and friends to find information on anyone who's remains have been buried in our Memorial Garden. Please contact Astrid Ottey or Pastor Bill if you have any information. We are updating our Memorial Garden records.

**St. Nick's Winterfest - December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** - Carols and songs, games and surprises, dressed in Holiday Fashion! And of course... FOOD, FOOD, FINGER FOOD, FIGGY PUDDING, CHRISTMAS COOKIES, HOLIDAY PUNCH!

**Carols, Hot Chocolate & Christmas Tree Lighting** – Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's. All are welcome.

**Christmas Worship** – On December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a 5pm Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion. On Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day at 10 am we will celebrate a Service of Carols and Holy Communion. Come and join us as we celebrate Our Savior's Birth.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (Silence for reflection)

God of all time, **we confess that we have sinned against You and one another. In your mercy forgive us and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Please, grant us peace in our world, in our relationships and in our hearts through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

## **Advent Candle Lighting**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets call all people to prepare the Lord's way  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever. **Amen!**

## **The Second Advent Candle is lighted!**

### **ADVENT HYMN - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**1** O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

#### **Refrain**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2** O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide  
our way. **Refrain**

### **An Ancient Advent Prophecy -Isaiah 40:1- 5.**

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice  
cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in  
the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

5Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

**Prayer of the Day** - Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God’s people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of  
 death,  
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**



A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12 – **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume 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>10</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>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## REFLECTIONS

### ELW# 744 - LORD, BE GLORIFIED

**1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

**2 In our song, Lord, be glorified...**

**3 In your church, Lord, be glorified...**

**4 In your world, Lord, be glorified...**

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

## OFFERTORY

**Offering Prayer** - Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*[Ushers will escort you to the Communion Rail to receive.  
After receiving the wafer, (GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE)  
you will be able to take a small cup of wine (red) or grape  
juice (white) from a tray. Deposit the empty cup in  
the basket. Then return to your seat.]*

OUR QUIET TIME IN COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

**Prayer after Communion** - Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing** - May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: ELW#242 – Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn**

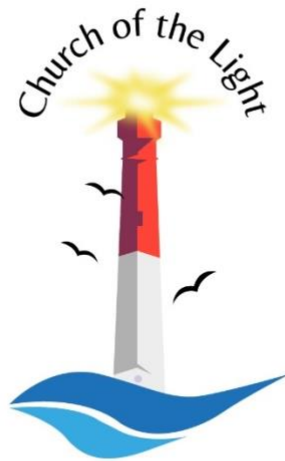


**Benediction Hymn: May God's Blessing**

**Hymn: May God's Blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in his ways.  
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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***"God calls us to share our faith in Christ  
with the community in all seasons."***