

Facebook Live Worship Outline

Advent 3- 13 December 2020

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN ELW #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed

C: **and binds up the brokenhearted.**

P: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

C: **The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives.**

P: and release to prisoners.

C: **We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

P: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn

C: **and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.**

P: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing,

C: **holding fast to what is good,**

All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. We thank you, O God for all those in scripture who have pointed to Christ: for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets, and for John. We thank you too, for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ: pastors and teachers, strangers and friends. Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned, brokenhearted, or beaten down, and we will give our testimony too: how Christ releases and sets free; how he turns ashes into garlands; how he repairs and builds up what is ruined. We, too, will point others to Jesus, the light of the world.

C: **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent 3 - Joy

P: Light one candle for joy.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long,
but our joy cannot be contained.

Like a toddler, toppling the thrones of power with a gleeful swipe,

Joy pierces our silence with song
interrupts our sighing with laughter
unshackles our fumbling feet to dance.

“My soul magnifies the Lord,” she whispers,
“and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one:
Christ with us.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

*Refrain Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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WORD

FIRST READING

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. Reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 61st chapter:

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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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. 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.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

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. This is the Holy Gospel according to John:

Glory to you, O Lord

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: On this third Sunday of Advent, separated by distance in our homes and yet confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we join in prayer as we await God's salvation, responding to each petition with the words "Mighty Saviour, come and save us." (*Pause*)

God of prophets and preachers, strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, and lay leaders. Protect Christians who are persecuted for the faith. While churches await a full return to assembly worship, empower the baptized with your faithful Spirit. Embed your word in our hearts.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely on nature's rhythms for their livelihood. Train us to dwell on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive.

A brief silence.

We pray for the earth:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a

commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions in the Middle East, and bring peace where civil conflicts rage. Release child soldiers from forced service. Equip regions to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war.

A brief silence.

We pray for the nations:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts

A brief silence.

We pray for all in distress:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of the sorrowing and the brokenhearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. In this season of Advent we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Barb, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *(Pause)* Make your church a place of refuge and healing.

A brief silence.

We pray for the sick:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of each one of us, we await peace and justice, health and wholeness. Sustain us as we await your coming. Hear now our unceasing prayers.

A longer period of silence.

We pray for ourselves:

Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God of sinners and saints, while facing sadness and death, we grieve; yet we offer you praise for all the saints, especially the martyr Lucy, those who have died of COVID-19, and those whose names we call out to you now. . . . At the end, gather us into the joy of your glory.

A brief silence..

We pray for your salvation.
Mighty Saviour, come and save us.

God beyond all things, God dwelling among us now, receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came, who comes, and who is coming now and forever.

C: Amen

PEACE

MEAL

We now enter that portion of our service that is the Eucharist or Holy Communion. I invite you to have your wine and bread ready and let's begin with prayer.

P: 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: God is with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts.

C: We lift them up to You.

P: As we gather at this table.

C: In anticipation and hope.

P: God of hopeful expectation,
who enters into our stories,
who births new life into creation,
who invites us into a rich and restoring relationship.
We come before you with humble hearts
To greet you in our midst.

You were there when creation burst into being, with endless possibilities.
You were there when the Israelites tasted liberty, and you opened their eyes to new freedom.

You were there, with Mary, when she became a powerful vessel and witness, to birth love into the world.

You were there with Jesus when he prayed in the garden, when he confronted death and brought resurrection life to your people.

And you are with us now, as we gather at your table;

Your meal and gift of love for all who come hungry and thirsty today.
We come, like those first disciples,
gathered around the table to hear Jesus' words of promise and hope.

On the night that he last ate with his disciples,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had finished, Jesus took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new promise of life and love, poured out for all of you,
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his life, his death and his resurrection,
We offer these fruits of creation, bread and wine,
And ourselves in grateful service.

Thank you for your Spirit who works in and among us,
in times of hope-filled anticipation.
Who strengthens and sustains us,
and who, challenges and prods us.
Who gives us life and continues to surprise us with extravagant grace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
All honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C: Amen

P: And now as our Saviour Jesus has taught us we are bold to pray:.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.
These are the gifts of God for the Children of God.

After all have communed, the presiding minister may say a table blessing.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

P: Let us pray.
Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

CHARGE

P: Rejoice always
Pray without ceasing
Witness to the light of Christ
so that all might believe through him.

Blessing

P: Now may the God of peace
call forth your complete dedication:
may the light of Christ shine upon you:
and the Holy Spirit ✝ fill you completely,
now and forever. Amen

SENDING SONG

ELW #815

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 125

Tuesday 2 Kings 2:9-22

Wednesday Mark 9:9-13

Thursday 2 Samuel 6:1-11

Friday Hebrews 1:5-14

Saturday John 7:40-52

4th Sunday in Advent - 20 December 2020: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46B-55;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38