



SHEPHERD *of the* LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH

114 E. Blue Earth Ave.

Fairmont, MN 56031

Sunday Worship: 9:30am

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:45am

www.shepherdofthelakes.net

Pastor Jason Zuehlke

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Welcome to Shepherd of the Lakes

We're here to shepherd Christ's flock and seek the lost sheep by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all. Come, let us worship!

For Your Convenience...

A room for any parents with children in need of a quiet place is located just outside of the back of the sanctuary. Restrooms are located in the hallway toward the front of the sanctuary. Please ask if you have any further questions or concerns..

Prayer before worship

Heavenly Father, as I worship you today, curb my wandering thoughts. Speak to my heart. Encourage me with your Word, that my faith is strengthened, my confidence and hope renewed, and I am recommitted to serve you faithfully. In Jesus' name, amen.



SERVICE of the Word



Pg. 38 in Christian Worship

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We, too, are guilty and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death. *Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

ALL:

O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the *joy* candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.

C: **And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.** *Galatians 4:4,5; 1 Peter 1:8,9*

ALL:

O, come, our Joy, whose love for-gives— Whose death as-sures that
we will live! Move us to heed the call, "Re-pent!"
And trust, for your sake, God re-lents. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: In the joy of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.** *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

ALL:

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



PLEASE BE SEATED

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The 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.

¹⁶On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,

"Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.

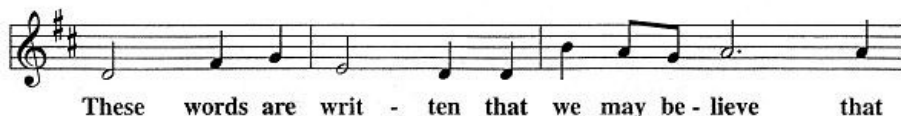
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing."

PSALM OF THE DAY: CW Psalm 66 (*on p. 90 in the front of your hymnal*)

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY



PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

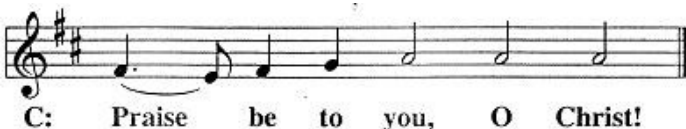
¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 18.....*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

SERMON

PLEASE STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

OFFERING

*Offerings can be placed in the offering plate in the back of our sanctuary. They can also be mailed to our church office at **114 E. Blue Earth Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031** or made on our website under the "Donate" tab at the top of the homepage or taken to Profinium Bank in Fairmont.*

To our visitors: *Our offering is not a debt we owe God, but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation, but love for God. The members of Shepherd of the Lakes have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. As our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN: CW 20.....*When All the World Was Cursed*

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: CW 27.....*O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are*