

December 11, 2022  
3rd Sunday of Advent

The background of the central section is a photograph of a lit candle in a brass holder, with an open hymn book resting on a surface behind it. The scene is dimly lit, with warm light from the candle and soft bokeh lights in the background.

*Songs*  
&  
SILENCE



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## Songs and Silence

Advent is a time of preparation. A common preparation of Advent comes in the form of Christmas songs. Christmas tunes fill the airwaves this time of year, and we all have a few favorite go-tos. However, silence is also an important tool during our Advent preparations. This is a time of year to silence our thoughts and meditate on God's Word. This Advent, we'll be making use of both Songs and Silence. On the four Sundays of Advent we will be considering the four songs of Christmas. During our Wednesday morning services we will be considering three lessons of silence.

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### ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

**Hymn: TLH #63**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** ♪ Amen.

**P** Pastor

### Confession of Our Sins

**C** Congregation

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

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**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

## Absolution from Our God

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*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

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- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## Response

TLH 68:5

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**G** *♩* **All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One, Through all eternity.**

## The Introit

*Zech. 9:9b; Ps. 89:6ff*

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*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

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- P** Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
- G** **Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**
- P** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- G** **Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,**
- P** Who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- G** **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our King to the Holy One of Israel.**
- P** Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

## Collect Prayer of the Day

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*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

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- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** **Amen.**

## Malachi 4:1-6

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

## Acts 19:1-10

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all. <sup>8</sup> And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took

the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.  
<sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

## **Matthew 3:1-6**

In In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

### **Confession of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

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*We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.*

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### **I BELIEVE...**

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Hymn: TLH #62**

*"Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel!"*

## **Luke 1:67-79**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation

for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**The Song of Zechariah:**  
It's all about Christ.

**The Offertory**

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*In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.*

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**C** *♪* **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

**✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠**

**Hymn: TLH #61**                      *"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"*

**✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠**

**The Benediction** *Numbers 6:24-26*

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*The blessing given by God for His people.*

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**P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C** *♪* **Amen, amen, a – men.**

**Hymn: TLH #97**                      *"Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"*

**YouTube:** If you have a YouTube account, please be sure to “subscribe” to our church’s YouTube page “Faith Lutheran Church of West STL County.” We are currently at 37 subscribers, but my hope is to start privately live-streaming Bible Class from my phone for individuals who are unable to attend. However, YouTube requires a channel to have 50 subscribers before live-streaming from a phone is allowed. So if any of you are able to help get us to 50 subscribers, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Pres. Eichstadt Update:** Following a minor surgical procedure last Friday, President Eichstadt was able to return home last Saturday. He was given a few physical restrictions but is doing well. Praise the Lord that he is at home with no complications!

**Looking Ahead:**

- Today: Voters’ Meeting (Elections) after the Worship Service
- Today: Kansas City Area worship service – 5:30 pm
- Wednesday: Last Midweek Advent Worship – 9:30 am
- Thursday: Garden View Worship Service – 10:30 am
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service – 10:00 am

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, **has accepted** the call to Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL. + Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, **has received** the dual call to serve Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma, WA.

<b>December 4<sup>th</sup> Offerings:</b>	\$ 776.75
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,607.69
General Fund Balance	\$18,737.03
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$28,723.26
<b>Total Cash All Funds</b>	<b>\$62,796.13</b>

**Songs and Silence Schedule** (Wednesday worship at 9:30 am)

Nov. 27	Nov. 30	Dec. 4	Dec. 7	Dec. 11	Dec. 14	Dec. 18
Song of Elizabeth	Silence of Zechariah	Song of Mary	Silence of Mary	Song of Zechariah	Silence of Satan	Song of Angels

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec.12 - 17, '22

**Mon Matthew 3:1-6** John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, as Isaiah had long ago prophesied he would, and John even dressed similar to Elijah (cp2Kg1:8), whom Malachi had said to look for. But the most striking thing about John was his message: The King is near! Prepare for His kingdom by repenting, turning to God for forgiveness.

**Tues Matthew 3:7-11** The coming King would not rule on the basis of human strength or goodness, but on the basis of God's goodness and strength. Therefore those who came to John satisfied with their own ways of entering the King's presence were actually following the old serpent. But the Messiah is coming to do away with sin! This is no time to be clinging to it!

**Wed 2 Timothy 4:5-8** As Paul is nearing the end of his ministry, he "passes the torch" to young Timothy. He reminds him of the righteousness which comes not from within, but from the Lord as a crown. This is what lies ahead for Paul and for all who have loved the Lord's appearing (v8).

**Thurs Isaiah 40:1-2** God's answer to the suffering of His people was double comfort. Speaking of their future hope as already accomplished, the prophet announces the end of their warfare and double forgiveness for the sins which had brought it all on.

**Fri Isaiah 40:3-5** The voice calls for smoothing the path for the coming of the LORD. When God's children look upon Christ's coming as glorious (v3), they will want no obstacle to hinder or divert it. For this coming one is "our God" (v3), through the forgiveness which He brings.

**Sat Isaiah 40:6-8** The most beautiful and accomplished of humans is short-lived, like grass, and soon withers and fades. Likewise humanity's greatest achievements are like flowers blooming for a day or two in the meadow. But the Word of "our God," by which the heavens were made, brings us pardon, peace, and life forever in Christ.